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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Speech

by

His Excellency

Hon. Daniel T. arap Moi, C.G.H., M.P.

President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
of the Republic of Kenya

on the occasion of

The State Opening of the Sixth Session
of the Eighth Parliament

on

Tuesday, 12th March, 2002



**His Excellency Hon. Daniel T. arap Moi, C.G.H., M.P.
President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
of the Republic of Kenya**

**HOTUBA YA MHESHIMIWA RAIS DANIEL T. ARAP MOI,
C.G.H., M.P., KATIKA SHEREHE ZA KUFUNGULIWA
RASMI KWA KIKAO CHA SITA CHA BUNGE LA NANE,
JUMANNE, TAREHE 12 MACHI, 2002**

Bwana SPIKA,

Nina furaha kuwakaribisha Waheshimiwa Wabunge wote katika kikao hiki cha sita na cha mwisho cha Bunge la Nane.

Bwana Spika,

Likizo ya Krismasi iliyopita, iliwapa Waheshimiwa Wabunge fursa nzuri ya kutembelea maeneo yao ya uwakilishi na kukutana na wananchi wao na kufahamu shida za wananchi wanaowakilisha. Tunapoanza kikao cha mwisho cha Bunge hili, sina shaka kuwa Wabunge wamejifahamisha vilivyo na shida zinazowakabili watu wetu. Ningependa kuwahimiza Wabunge wawe na msimamo wa umoja na watumie ipasavyo nyakati zilizoko mbele kwa manufaa ya waajiri wetu, yaani Wananchi wa Kenya.

Mimi mwenyewe niliweza kutumia fursa ya Likizo ya Krismasi kutembelea sehemu mbali mbali nchini ili kujionea mwenyewe matatizo ya kimaendeleo yanayokabili watu wetu, na kukadiria ufanisi wa juhudi za pamoja za Serikali yangu na wananchi katika kutatua shida hizo.

Bwana Spika,

Wakati tulipotwaa jukumu la kuendesha mambo yetu wenyewe mnamo mwaka wa 1963, Serikali ilitambua umasikini, ugonjwa na ujinga kama adui wakubwa wa kupambana nao. Bila shaka tumefaulu kupiga hatua kubwa katika kukabiliana na adui hawa wa watu wetu.

Juhudi za Serikali katika sekta ya elimu zaonekana wazi kupitia ongezeko la haraka la idadi ya shule, taasisi na vyuo vikuu. Mnamo miongo miwili iliyopita, maelfu ya waalimu, madaktari, wahandisi na wataalamu wengine wamefuzu kutoka taasisi zetu za mafunzo, na wanaendelea kuchangia katika ujenzi wa taifa hili kwa njia mbali mbali. Tungalifurahi zaidi leo kama

wale wote ambao tumewaelimisha wanalikuwa na ajira. Hata hivyo, yafaa turidhike na ukweli kwamba tumewaelimisha watu wengi na kuwepo kwao kunasaidia maendeleo ya kiuchumi.

Huku Wakenya kwa jumla wakiendelea kunufaika kutokana na kuimarika kwa hali ya kupata elimu, matibabu na maji safi, umaskini bado ungali tatizo kubwa kwa Serikali yangu. Hali hii ya umaskini nchini imezoroteshwa zaidi na ukosefu wa kazi ambao umesababishwa na ongezeko kubwa la haraka la watu na ukuaji duni wa uchumi tangu mwaka wa 1990. Zaidi ya hayo, yale yanayoendelea kutendeka ulimwenguni, yanazidi kuathiri uchumi wetu. Kwa mfano hali mbaya ya biashara ya bidhaa zetu za kuuzwa nje, pamoja na gharama ya juu ya bidhaa zinazoagizwa kutoka nje na madhara ya utanda wazi, ikiwa pamoja na mfumo wa biashara huru vimekuwa vikwazo vikubwa kwa maendeleo ya uchumi wetu.

Serikali yangu inafahamu kuwa suluhisho la kudumu la kuondoa umaskini, linapatikana kupitia ukuaji wa haraka, tena wa viwango vya juu wa uchumi wetu, ambao utaondolea mbali madhara ya ongezeko la idadi ya watu.

Ni lazima tutilie maanani maendeleo na mwenendo wa uchumi wa ulimwengu na kuelimisha watu wetu ama watumie nafasi zilizoko au kumudu hali ngumu. Kwa mfano, licha ya matatizo yanayoletwa na mfumo wa biashara huru, nchi hii iko katika nafasi nzuri sana ya kunufaika kutokana na Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki na Soko la Pamoja la Nchi za Afrika Mashariki na Kusini, (COMESA). Ni muhimu Waheshimiwa Wabunge na Wakenya wote, hasa wale wako sekta ya kibinafsi kutumua nafasi hizi na taratibu zingine ambazo Serikali imeandaa.

Mfano mwingine ni ule wa AGOA. Wabunge wanapaswa kujitahidi kushawishi wakulima wapande zao la pamba. Serikali yangu, bila shaka, itaweka mazingira yafaayo. Tutajadili utaratibu na kuunda mipango ya kutafuta soko na bidhaa zinazotokana na zao hilo la pamba. Wale ambao wanatengeneza bidhaa zinazotokana na zao la pamba ambazo zinazuzwa nje wanapaswa kutumia fursa hii ya kipekee. Hii ndio njia ya

kupatikana kwa nafasi za kazi na kupunguza umaskini. Serikali yangu itafanya bidii ili nchi yetu iweze kunufaika kutokana na mkataba huo. Ningependa kuhimiza Waheshimiwa Wabunge na Wakenya wengine wafanye bidii kuona juhudi hizi zinazaa matunda.

Waheshimiwa Wabunge watapendezwa pia kufahamu kwamba Serikali yangu ingali inaendelea na mazungumzo na washirika wetu wa maendeleo ili kuondoa vikwazo vyote vilivyosalia ili misaada iweze kurejeshwa kwa nchi hii.

Bwana Spika,

Ufanisi wa kiuchumi utakuwa vigumu kupatikana katika mazingira ambayo usalama wa maisha ya wananchi na mali yao ni ya kubahatisha. Isitoshe hakuna mwekaji wa rasilimali anayeweza kuweka pesa zake katika mazingira yenye misukosuko. Pia haitawezekana kwa wananchi kushiriki katika shughuli za uzalishaji huku wakihofia usalama wao. Visa vya mauaji, wizi wa kutumia nguvu, utumiaji wa madawa ya kulevya, wizi wa mifugo, ujambazi na mizozano ya kikabila ni mambo ambayo Serikali yangu inafuatilia kwa makini na kutilia maanani sana. Kufuatana na hayo, vyombo vya kulinda usalama vina amri ya kuwasaka na kushtaki wale wote wanaojishughulisha na vitendo vya uhalifu.

Hata hivyo, ninataka kusisitiza kwamba mambo ya usalama, hayawezi kuachiwa polisi pekee. Viongozi na wananchi kwa jumla wanajukumu muhimu pia la kuhakikisha kuwa wahalifu na wale wanaowashuku miongoni mwao wanaripotiwa mbele ya wakuu ili hatua zifaazo za kisheria zichukuliwe. Kama Wakenya, ni lazima tufanye bidii kuondoa michafuko katika nchi yetu. Yafaa tujiepushe kama Wakenya kuonekana kama watu wa fujo, kwani tukipewa sifa kama hiyo itatuadhiri sisi sote bila kujali ni nani anaendesha Serikali. Hivyo basi, ni jukumu letu kudumisha amani na usalama nyakati zote.

Bwana Spika,

Serikali yangu imekuwa ikijishughulisha na kudumisha ujirani mwema na uthabiti katika eneo letu. Kama mjuavyo,

misukosuko ikiingia katika nchi jirani, uwezo wetu wa kujishughulisha na maendeleo unaadhiriwa vibaya. Zaidi ya hayo, mizozano inaleta madhara mengi kama vile kuingizwa silaha nchini kinyume cha sheria pamoja na wakimbizi.

Mizozano hii ni chanzo cha kuwepo kwa hali ya kutoelewana katika eneo letu, mbali na kuhatarisha amani na usalama wa wananchi katika eneo letu. Kwa sababu hiyo, Kenya haitajisikia salama kama hakuna Serikali kuu inayofanya kazi katika Nchi ya Somalia, wala wananchi wa eneo hili kujiona kuwa na amani ya kweli wakati dada zao na kaka zao wakiendelea kuteseka kwa sababu ya misukosuko na vita vya wenyewe kwa wenyewe katika eneo letu. Kwa hivyo tutaendelea kuhimiza na kusaidia juhudi za kutafuta amani kule Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia na Eritrea, pamoja na maeneo ya Maziwa Makuu.

Huu ukiwa ni mwaka wa uchaguzi, ningependa kuwahimiza Wakenya wote kuimarisha amani na umoja kote nchini nyakati zote. Ni lazimā tuonyeshe ulimwengu kwamba ingawa tutapigania mamlaka ya uongozi, sisi ni kitu kimoja, na watu wapenda amani. Nikinukulu wimbo wetu wa taifa kwamba, “tukiwa na nyoyo zenye uthabiti na haki.....tukiwa na azimio moja katika umoja, natujenge taifa letu pamoja”.

Viongozi hasa, wanapaswa kuepokana na kutoa matamshi ya kutatanisha yanayoweza kusababisha migawanyiko na kuamsha chuki za kikabila miongoni mwa watu wetu. Kama vile nimekuwa nikisema mara kwa mara ukabila ni ugonjwa mbaya sana ambao umeangamiza mataifa mengi Barani Afrika. Sisi hapa Kenya tumetambua, kwa nyakati zote kuwa, nguvu yetu kama taifa inatokana na umoja wetu. Ninawasihi Wabunge Waheshimiwa, wanasiasa na viongozi wengine kwa jumla, wazingatie amani na umoja kwa ufanisi wa nchi hii.

Bwana Spika,

Kabla sijakamilisha hotuba yangu leo, ninataka kukumbusha Waheshimiwa Wabunge juu ya mrundiko wa miswada ambayo bado haijadiliwa Bungeni. Nyingi ya miswada hii ilibakia kutoka kikao kilichopita na hivyo itachapishwa upya ili kujadiliwa kwa haraka katika kikao hiki cha mwisho. Miswada

hiyo ni pamoja na: Mswada Kuhusu Usalama Barabarani, Mswada Kuhusu Ufisadi na Uhalifu wa Kiuchumi, Mswada Kuhusu Itikadi Kazini kwa Watumishi wa Umma, Mswada Kuhusu Tume ya Haki za Kibinadamu Nchini, Mswada Kuhusu Sheria za Uhalifu, Mswada Kuhusu Jinsia na Maendeleo, miongoni mwa mengine. Natumaini kwamba Wabunge watapata nafasi nzuri kuhakiki miswada hiyo ili kuchangia katika majadiliano Bungeni.

Bwana Spika,

Ningependa kwa mara nyingine kuhimiza Wabunge kudumisha umoja na amani huku wakizingatia hadhi ya Bunge. Demokrasia, kama nilivyosema mwaka uliopita, inahitaji kuvumilia maoni ya wengine hata kama yanaonekana kama hayakubaliki. Mti wa demokrasia lazima kwanza uote mizizi thabiti Bungeni, kabla matunda yake hayajaenea na kukubaliwa na Jamii ya Wakenya wote.

Lengo letu kama Waheshimiwa Wabunge ni kujitolea mhanga kwa nchi yetu. Tofauti za kimaoni zafaa kutatuliwa kwa hekima na busara.

Mwisho, Bwana Spika, ni wakati wangu sasa kutangaza kwa furaha kufunguliwa rasmi kwa Kikao cha Sita na cha mwisho cha Bunge la Nane.

AHSANTE NA MUNGU AWE NANYI NYOTE.

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT,
HON. DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P., ON THE
OCCASION OF THE STATE OPENING OF THE SIXTH
SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT ON
TUESDAY, 12TH MARCH, 2002**

MR. SPEAKER,

I am pleased to welcome all Honourable Members to the Sixth and final session of the Eighth Parliament.

Mr. Speaker,

The last Christmas recess provided a suitable opportunity for Honourable Members to visit their constituencies, meet with their constituents and be closer to issues affecting them. As we begin the final session of this Parliament, I have no doubt that Honourable Members are fully updated on the problems facing our people. I urge all Honourable Members to forge unity of purpose and to use the time ahead productively for the benefit of our employers, the people of Kenya.

During the Christmas recess, I took the opportunity to visit various parts of the country, in order to see for myself the development challenges facing our people, and to evaluate the success of efforts by my Government in partnership with the people, to tackle these challenges.

Mr. Speaker,

When we took charge of the management of our affairs in 1963, the Government identified poverty, ignorance and diseases as the principal enemies to be fought. We have, without doubt, made commendable progress in our fight against these sworn enemies of our people—with more success in some areas than in others.

The Government's investment in education is evident from the rapid increase in the number of schools, colleges and universities over the years. During the last two decades, in particular, thousands of teachers, doctors, engineers and other professionals have been trained in our institutions of learning. They are continuing to contribute in their various ways towards building this nation. We would all be much happier today if all the people we have educated and trained were employed. However, we should appreciate the fact that we have educated a large number of our people and that availability of trained manpower does help in economic development.

While on the whole Kenyans enjoy considerably improved access to education, health and clean water facilities, poverty remains a serious challenge to my Government. Poverty levels are worsened by high unemployment, caused by both rapid population growth and the weak performance of the economy, which has persisted since the mid-1990s. Furthermore, negative developments on the global scene, for instance, poor terms of trade for our primary exports, high cost of manufactured imports, and adjustment to globalization, among other factors have caused constraint in the growth of the economy.

My Government is aware that a lasting solution to poverty must come from the attainment of high and rapid economic growth rates that will override the effects of high population growth.

We must all appreciate world economic trends and educate our people on how to take advantage of available opportunities or cope with difficult circumstances. For instance, despite the problems brought about by the issue of free trade, Kenya stands to benefit from its membership of regional economic blocs such as the East African Community and COMESA. It is important for Honourable Members and all Kenyans, especially those in the private sector to take advantage of opportunities in these and

other arrangements which have been facilitated by Government. Another example is the African Growth and Opportunity Act which opened up new export opportunities in the United States of America. Members should now direct serious efforts to convince farmers to grow cotton. My Government will, of course, help in creating an enabling environment. Marketing structures should be properly discussed and drawn up. Those who are on the production side of export of manufactured cotton goods should also take this unique advantage. This is how to generate employment and reduce poverty. My Government worked extremely hard for our country to benefit from this Act. I would urge Honourable Members and others outside this House to make this effort truly fruitful. Honourable Members will also be pleased to know that my Government remains positively engaged with our development partners, in order to clear any obstacles which continue to stand in the way of renewed financial support to this country and investment inflows.

Mr. Speaker,

Economic prosperity will be hard to attain in an environment where the security of people's lives and their property cannot be guaranteed. In any case no investor is likely to invest in an atmosphere of insecurity and chaos, neither will people engage in productive activities, while they are in fear for their lives. Cases of robbery with violence, drug trafficking, cattle rustling, banditry and conflicts are of great concern to my Government. In this connection, the law enforcement agencies have received renewed instructions to track down and bring to justice all those engaged in criminal activities.

I want to emphasize, however, that security issues like corruption cannot be left to the police alone. Local leaders, communities and Kenyan people as a whole have an important responsibility of ensuring that criminal elements and other

suspicious persons in their midst are reported to the authorities, so that they can be dealt with in accordance with the law.

As Kenyans we should work very closely to eliminate any violence in our country. We as Kenyans must not allow ourselves to be labelled as violent people by others around the world. If such a label is pasted on us, it affects all of us and it may stick on us regardless of who is running the affairs of our nation. It is therefore in our common interest to keep our country peaceful and secure.

Mr. Speaker,

My Government has been engaged for a long time in promoting good neighbourliness and stability in our region. As you know if neighbours are in conflict, our ability to engage in development activities with them is reduced. The conflicts also have spill over effects which complicate our own development agenda such as the influx of guns, refugees and displaced persons. The conflicts are in addition a source of tension, and pose a great threat to peace and security in the region.

In this regard, Kenya cannot feel secure in the absence of a fully functional central authority in Somalia, nor can the people of this region be truly at peace, when some of their brothers and sisters in the region continue to suffer because of conflicts and wars. We will, therefore, continue to encourage and support peace initiatives in Somalia, Sudan and the Great Lakes Region.

This being an election year, I want to urge all Kenyans to foster peace and unity everywhere and at all times. We must demonstrate to the world that although throughout this year we will be staging a lively democratic contest for national leadership, we are one united and peaceful people,

“With hearts both strong and true...

With one accord in common bond united...

To build this our nation together..., ”

to quote stanzas from our National Anthem. Leaders, in particular, should avoid making outrageous and inflammatory statements, which are likely to create division and fuel tribal hatred amongst our people. As I have said time and again, tribalism is a cancer that has destroyed many nations in Africa. We in Kenya have always recognized that our strength, as a nation, lies in our unity of purpose. I urge Honourable Members and all leaders and political activities to pursue peace and unity, for the success and prosperity of our nation.

Mr. Speaker,

Before I conclude my remarks today, I want to bring to the attention of Honourable Members the large number of pending Bills, which require their immediate attention during this final session of this Parliament. Most of the Bills lapsed during the previous session, and will therefore be published and discussed during the current session. They include the following: the Traffic (Amendment) Bill, the Anti-corruption and Economic Crimes Bill, the Public Service (Code of Conduct and Ethics) Bill, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights Bill, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, the National Commission on Gender and Development Bill, and the Central Bank of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, amongst others. I hope that Honourable Members will carefully study all the Bills, in order to make serious contributions to the House debates.

Mr. Speaker,

Let me once again urge Honourable Members to maintain peace and unity of purpose, and uphold the dignity of the House at all times. Democracy, as I said here last year, calls for

tolerance for the views of others, however unacceptable these may be. The tree of democracy must first of all take root in this Parliament, before its fruits can find acceptance in the larger society. Our primary duty as Honourable Members is dedicated service to our fatherland. Differences of opinion or approach to issues should always be resolved in an amicable and fraternal manner.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is now my greatest pleasure to declare the Sixth and final session of the Eighth Parliament officially open.

THANK YOU AND GOD BE WITH YOU ALL.