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# 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 Second Session  
of the Eighth Parliament**

on

Tuesday, 31st March, 1998

**HOTUBA YA MHESHIMIWA DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H.,  
M.P., RAIS NA AMRI JESHI MKUU WA JAMHURI YA  
KENYA KATIKA SHEREHE YA KUFUNGULIWA RASMI  
KWA BUNGE LA NANE, KIKAO CHA PILI, MNAMO  
JUMANNE, TAREHE 31, MACHI, 1998**

MHESHIMIWA SPIKA,

Kwanza kabisa ningependa kuwapongeza Waheshimiwa Wabunge kwa kuchaguliwa au kuteuliwa kwao kuingia bunge hili. Vile vile ningependa kuwakaribisha nyote kwa kikao hiki cha pili cha Bunge letu la Nane.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

Tukiwa tunaanza kipindi kipya cha bunge, Wakenya wote wakiwa na matumaini makubwa wanatuangalia kwa makini kuona vile tutakavyotatua matatizo mazito yanaowakabili. Kwa hivyo jukumu kubwa lililo mbele yetu, ni kubuni mbinu na njia kamilifu za kukabiliana na matatizo yanayokumba watu wetu.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

Kuna matatizo mengi yanayokabili nchi na watu wetu. Muhimu kati yao, ni umaskini na ukosefu wa nafasi za kazi. Wengi wa watu wetu hawana uwezo wa kujipatia riziki ya kila siku kama vile lishe bora na yakutosha, maji safi, nyumba bora na hali bora ya matibabu. Waheshimiwa Wabunge watakumbuka kwamba kwa muda wa miaka sita sasa, tumekuwa tukitekeleza mipango ya urekebishaji uchumi na taratibu ya siasa, mipango ambayo imeathiri vibaya zile jamii masikini kati yetu.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

Licha ya tofauti zetu katika misingi ya kisiasa, sharti sote tuungane mikono pamoja ili tukabiliane vyema na matatizo ya kiuchumi yanayokumba taifa letu. Kwa mfano, katika sekta ya kilimo tumeanza hatua za kufanya ukuzaji maziwa, kahawa na chai kuwa huru. Wajibu wetu kama viongozi ni kuwapa wakulima

moyo wa kuongeza juhudi zao katika kilimo ili waweze kuthibiti shughuli zao katika sekta mbali mbali. Hapo wataweza kupata faida kutokana na uzalishaji zaidi na kuinua hali yao ya maisha.

Sote twaelewa kwamba wajibu wa kuendeleza nchi hii ni wa kila mwananchi na kila mzalendo wa Kenya. Hata ingawa tutaendelea kutarajia misaada kutoka kwa marafiki zetu, ni lazima tujifunze kutegemea nguvu na rasilimali zetu katika mipango yetu ya maendeleo. Kwa hivyo ni jambo la lazima kwa viongozi kujihusisha kikamilifu katika kuwaeleza wananchi faida ya kuongeza kujiwekea akiba na kujihusisha katika shughuli za ukuzaji uchumi.

Zaidi ya hayo, ni matarajio yangu kwamba Waziri wa Fedha atachunguza kwa makini muundo na njia bora za kuongeza ukusanyaji wa fedha za Serikali ilituweze kufikia kiwango kinachohitajika cha kuwa na makadirio ya fedha kinachotosheleza ukuaji wa uchumi. Jitihada hizi zote ni lazima ziambatane na nia thabiti ya kuziba matundu ya kuhepa ulipaji kodi yanayotumiwa na walaghai. Ni lazima watu hawa walaghai wasio na moyo wa uzalendo, wajue kwamba Serikali imejitolea kuwanasa. Yafaa ifahamike kwa wote kwamba vita dhidi ya ulaji rushwa ni lazima, na nasisitiza ni lazima viongezwe katika kila daraja ya jamii yetu. Kwa kuzingatia hayo, nawaomba raia, pamoja na wafanya biashara wa kibinafsi, kuungana mikono kikamilifu na Serikali ili kuangamiza ulaji rushwa katika jamii yetu.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

Tukiwa tunaimarisha ukuaji wa uchumi wetu, ni lazima vile vile tuendeleo na jitihada zetu za kutilia nguvu vyombo vya demokrasia. Tutaendelea kuzingatia mfumo wa kuwa na majadiliano ya kweli na wazi kati ya Serikali na sekta ya binafsi, ili kubuni hali bora ya uwekaji rasilimali hapa nchini. Ukweli ni kwamba tuna imani na moyo thabiti wa kukabiliana ipasavyo na majukumu yanayotukabili ya kiuchumi. Tutaendelea kuzingatia kugeuza mashirika ya Serikali kuwa huru kwa minajili ya kuyafanya kutoa huduma bora zaidi. Mashirika ambayo yanayohusika na mawasiliano; na hata kawi, ni baadhi ya yale mashirika yatakatayofanywa

huru ili kuwapa wafanya biashara wa kibinafsi nafasi zaidi ya kuingia katika sekta hizo. Fedha tutakazopata katika shughuli hiyo tutazitumia kulipia sehemu ya deni la ndani la nchi. Hatua hizi zina lengo la kuvutia upungukaji wa riba za mikopo ya mabanki na kwa hivyo kuzindua mwamko wa ukuaji wa uchumi.

Ili tuweze kurekebisha matatizo yanayotukumba ya kiuchumi, kijamii na kiusalama katika nchi yetu, naonelea ni vyema wabunge wazungumze mmoja kwa mmoja ili tupate kuwa na masuluhisho kwa faida ya watu wetu.

Ni kwa moyo huu nitakuwa nakutana na viongozi wa upinzani ambao wana nia kamili ya kutafuta njia bora za kutuwezesha kukabiliana na matatizo yaliyo mbele yetu.

**Mheshimiwa Spika,**

**Waheshimiwa Wabunge watakumbuka kwamba mnamo mwaka 1996, nchi yetu ya Kenya ilikumbwa na hali mbaya sana ya ukame ambayo iliathiri vibaya sana ukuzaji vyakula katika sehemu nyingi ambazo hutoa mazao ya chakula kingi hapa nchini. Isitoshe hali hiyo ilifuatiliwa na mvua zilizosababishwa na hali ya El Nino mwaka 1997 na mapema mwaka huu ambazo ziliharibu mazao ya chakula, mabarabara, na kuongeza magonjwa yanayoambatana na hali ya maji maji. Kwa sababu ya majanga haya, Serikali ililazimika kutenga sehemu kubwa ya fedha zilizopangiwa miradi tofauti tofauti ya maendeleo ili kukabiliana na majanga hayo.**

**Ili kuokoa maisha ya Wakenya, Serikali ilichukua hatua za dharura za kuwapatia misaada ya vyakula na madawa watu waliokumbwa na majanga haya. Serikali yangu itaendelea na mipango ya kuzisaidia zile jamii masikini kati yetu. Kati ya mipango hiyo ni kuwalipia karo wale wanafunzi wanaotoka katika jamii hizo pamoja na kuwapatia madawa na matibabu ya bure na kuwaondolea malipo mengine ya huduma mbali mbali za Serikali.**

**Niruhusu Mheshimiwa Spika, nichukue nafasi hii kwa niaba ya Waheshimiwa Wabunge na Wakenya wote kutoa shukrani kwa**

marafiki zetu wa kutoka sehemu mbali mbali za ulimwengu kwa misaada waliotupatia katika haya majanga.

Kuhusu uharibifu wa mabarabara uliosababishwa na mvua ya El Nino, nina furaha kuwajulisha Waheshimiwa Wabunge kwamba Serikali imeanza kutekeleza mpango wa kukarabati barabara kuu katika miji yetu. Tayari nyingi ya mabarabara katika miji, na jiji la Nairobi yamekarabatiwa kama hatua ya dharura ya muda mfupi, huku mipango kamili ikifanywa na Benki ya Dunia ya kutoa fedha za mkopo za kufadhili ukarabati wa kudumu wa mabarabara nchini kote. Mipango hiyo iko karibu kukamilika.

Uimarishaji wa ujenzi wa mabarabara, mawasiliano, usafirishaji na kadhalika kuenda sambamba na urekebishaji wa mfumo wa kiuchumi, ni muhimu kwetu kwa kuvutia wawekaji rasilmali. Lakini la muhimu zaidi, ni lazima kuweko na amani nchini ili watu waweze kuwa na imani na uchumi wetu. Kwa hivyo ni jambo la kusikitisha kuona kwamba baadhi ya Waheshimiwa Wabunge, wameonekana kana kwamba wanajitambulisha na wakati mwingine kuunga mkono wazi wazi tabia ambazo hazingatii amani nchini.

Mimi naona jukumu la kiongozi kuwa ni lile la kuokoa na kuchunga maisha wala si kuwa kitisho kwa maisha. Serikali iko macho na kamwe haitasita kumchukulia hatua kali mtu yeyote ambaye atajaribu kuchafua amani na uthabiti wetu.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

Waheshimiwa Wabunge watakumbuka kwamba kufikia mwisho wa Bunge la Saba, miswada mbali mbali ilijadiliwa na kupitishwa na bunge. Ni hiari ya hili bunge kuchunguza maombi ya wananchi na kukata shauri kama kuna marekebisho yanayohitajika. Nawaomba Wabunge wafanye haraka ili waweze kutoa nafasi ya kujadiliwa kwa marekebisho ya katiba kwa njia bora na amani. Kama vile mjuavyo mambo ya katiba yanatiwa maanani sana na wananchi.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

Kabla sijamaliza hotuba yangu, ningependa kuwakumbusha Waheshimiwa Wabunge jukumu muhimu lililo mbele yao. Bunge

hili ndiyo chombo muhimu cha kuendeshea mambo yetu ya taifa. Nyumba hii ni kielelezo cha demokrasia ya bunge. Kwa hivyo ni wajibu wetu sote kudumisha hadhi ya bunge hili ili kupatia watu wetu matumaini na usalama. Kamwe isionekane kwamba hadhi ya bunge hili ambayo ndio hutunga sheria za nchi zinapuuzwa kwa sababu yoyote ile.

Hebu bunge hili nalithibiti imani kwa wananchi kwa kuzingatia vyema wajibu wake kama chombo cha kuwezesha Wakenya kuwa na ufanisi mwema siku zijazo. Bunge hili ni lazima lionekane kama mahali ambapo masuluhisho hufikiwa juu ya tofauti mbali mbali kwa njia ya amani kupitia majadiliano muhimu na yenye maana. Kamwe mahali hapa pasichukuliwe kama jukwaa la kutatua tofauti za kibinafsi au madai ya uwongo. Nawaomba Waheshimiwa Wabunge kuzingatia kanuni na taratibu zote za bunge na daima kuhifadhi hadhi ya bunge.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

Nikimaliza hotuba yangu ya leo, ningependa kusisitiza kwamba sisi sote tuko hapa kama watumishi wa wananchi. Kwa hivyo, jukumu letu nikitumikia masilahi ya waajiri wetu, wala si masilahi yetu ya kibinafsi. Kwa hivyo nawaomba Waheshimiwa Wabunge wote kutupilia mbali masilahi yao ya kibinafsi na kuzingatia masilahi ya pamoja ya watu wetu. Kwa kufanya hivyo, tutafaulu kujenga taifa moja thabiti lenye umoja na ufanisi.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

La mwisho na watakieni Waheshimiwa Wabunge majadiliano mema.

*AHSANTENI.*

**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 PARLIA-  
MENT ON TUESDAY, 31ST MARCH, 1998**

First of all, I congratulate all of you honourable members for being elected or nominated, as the case may be, to this August House. I welcome you all, to this second session of the Eighth Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, as we begin a new parliamentary term, Kenyans will be keen to see how seriously their representatives will address the pressing issues facing them. The challenge ahead of us, is to be effective and resourceful in solving the problems facing our people.

Mr. Speaker,

There are many problems facing our country and people. Foremost among these, is poverty and unemployment. Many of our people are unable to satisfy their basic needs such as adequate and balanced food, clean water, good shelter and medical care. As honourable members are aware, we have during the last six years been implementing both economic and political reforms which have adversely affected most of us, but more particularly, the poorer members of our society.

Mr. Speaker, irrespective of our party affiliation, we must join hands in order to address these difficult economic challenges. In the agricultural sector for example, we have embarked on the liberalization of the dairy, coffee and tea subsectors. Our duty as leaders is to encourage farmers to participate more effectively in agricultural production activities and to ensure that their control over the running of the various sectors, translates into profits, higher productivity and improvement of their well-being.

We all understand that the business of developing this country, rests squarely on the shoulders of each and every Kenyan. Whereas we shall continue to expect development support from our friends, we must learn to rely more on our own energies and resources. Leaders must therefore play a more active role in explaining to wananchi the importance of increasing our savings and participating in productive economic activities. Furthermore, I expect the Minister for Finance to look more critically into ways and means of attaining the revenue collection targets necessary for us to achieve a growth oriented budget. These efforts must also be backed by an equal determination to seal the loopholes which have in the past been exploited by tax evaders. These unpatriotic Kenyans who have specialized in evading tax, must understand that the Government is determined to catch up with them. Indeed, the fight against corruption must be intensified at every level of our society. In this regard, I call on the general public as well as the private sector to close ranks with the Government in order to put an end to corrupt practices in our society.

Mr. Speaker, as we improve the growth of our economy, we will also continue with our efforts to strengthen our democratic institutions. We will also continue to pursue a strategy of open and frank dialogue between the Government and the private sector in order to create an enabling environment for both domestic and foreign investors. Indeed, we are determined to face the economic challenges facing us with courage. We will proceed with the privatization of State enterprises in order to improve the quality of services offered by these institutions. In particular, the telecommunications and the energy sectors will be opened up to allow more entry of private operators. We will use the proceeds from the sale of State enterprises to repay part of the domestic debt. These measures are expected to encourage a reduction in interest rates on bank lending which will in turn spur economic growth.

In order to address the economic, social and security challenges now facing our country, I consider it necessary that we, the Members of Parliament must talk with one another across the



political divide in order to find solutions for the common good of our people.

It is in that spirit that I shall be meeting all the leaders from the opposition who may also have the genuine desire for finding ways and means of overcoming the challenges ahead of us.

Mr. Speaker, as honourable members will recall, in 1996, Kenya was affected by a severe drought which seriously undermined food production in the major food growing areas of the country. Following this, the El Nino induced rains of 1997 and early this year, destroyed food crops, severely damaged our roads and also increased the incidence of water borne diseases. As a result of these natural calamities, it became necessary to divert a large portion of our scarce resources from planned projects in order to cater for emergencies. To protect Kenyans from unnecessary loss of life, the Government took immediate steps to provide famine relief and drugs to the affected populations. My Government will continue to implement programmes aimed at alleviating the suffering of the vulnerable members of our society. Amongst these measures, are the provision of bursaries to needy children, supply of drugs and medicines and waiver of cost-sharing charges for the poor.

Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to take this opportunity on behalf of honourable members and all Kenyans to thank our friends from other parts of the world who have supported our efforts towards this end.

Concerning the destruction to our roads by the El Nino rains, I am glad to inform honourable members, that the Government has embarked on a major road rehabilitation programme covering our major urban centres. Already, emergency measures have been taken to resurface many of the roads in our towns and the City of Nairobi. Meanwhile, arrangements are being concluded with the World Bank to release loan funds to repair damaged roads countrywide on a larger scale. The improvement of the infrastructure goes hand-in-hand with the on-going economic reforms that are necessary for us to attract investments. But more fundamentally, there must be peace in the country to

create confidence in our economy. It is therefore regrettable that some honourable members have seemed to identify with and in some cases openly supported activities that do not foster peace.

I see the role of a leader as one who should save and protect lives, and not be party to or condone threats to life. The Government is alert and will not hesitate to take firm action against anyone who attempts to disrupt our peace and stability.

Mr. Speaker, honourable members will recall that towards the end of the Seventh Parliament a number of important legislations were deliberated upon and passed by Parliament. Amongst them, was the Constitutional Commission Review Bill which was passed and which I accented to. It is upon this House to assess the views of wananchi and decide whether the Bill requires any further amendments. I urge members to move with speed to smoothen the way towards an orderly and peaceful debate of our constitution. As most of you are aware the issue of constitutional review is quite popular among wananchi.

Towards this end, the Government will soon bring to the House some amendments for consideration. I would like to re-affirm the commitment of my Government to the worthy cause of constitutional review. This is an exercise that will require the commitment of all Kenyans so that we may come out with a revised constitution that will serve the interest of us all and for the well-being of future generations.

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude my remarks this afternoon, I wish to remind honourable members of the task ahead of them. This National Assembly is a key institution responsible for the conduct of our nation's affairs. This House is living symbol of our parliamentary democracy. It behoves all of us, therefore, to uphold the supremacy of this Parliament as a beacon of hope and source of trust and security for our people. It should not appear at any stage that this House is being belittled on its role as the supreme law-making organ be eroded for whatever reason.

Let this Parliament cultivate the trust of our people by ascertaining its responsibility as a dignified institution that charts

out a bright future for Kenyans. Let this Parliament be viewed as a place for the peaceful resolution of differences through serious and meaningful discussion of issues. It must not be used as a platform for trading false accusations or settling personal scores. I urge honourable members to observe the existing standing orders and to maintain the dignity of Parliament at all times.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding my remarks today, I wish to emphasize that we are here as servants of the people. Our duty is therefore to serve the interests of those who gave us this appointment, not our own interests. I therefore call on all honourable members to set aside their individual interests and pursue the common interest of our people. By doing so, we shall succeed in building one strong, united and prosperous nation.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, honourable members, I wish you all fruitful deliberations.

*THANK YOU.*