

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
MZEE JOMO KENYATTA ON THE OCCASION OF
MADARAKA DAY, 1st JUNE 1970**

Ladies and Gentlemen . . .

Seven years ago this country tasted the fruits of a long struggle for *Uhuru*, and since then we have been struggling for economic independence. No developing state can progress rapidly by isolating itself from more advanced nations, and for this reason, we have encouraged external investment in Kenya as well as technical assistance. However, a country heavily dependent on foreign capital for its development is not truly independent.

Today I propose to outline the steps we have taken towards our economic *Uhuru*. A country that is truly free must be able to generate wealth to meet recurrent expenditure and have surpluses for development. A sign of our growing wealth is the intensive farming of productive land, the development of our natural resources and the modern management of our fisheries and wildlife.

In addition, it is imperative that real economic independence must exist as a state of mind among the people. The inspiration of "*Harambee*" has led to the understanding that the total of all our individual efforts will add up to the welfare of the State. My Government's objective has not been to drive or make demands upon the people, but, through the provision of loans or training schemes, make available new opportunities which the people everywhere could seize. In their hard-won freedom, and as their right, the people have responded. This is the effective way, the African way, towards real progress. Kenya has designed and implemented a true African Socialism under which my Government and people are dedicated to mutual service and requirement.

The economic policy of this country is determined by the nation and the Government, and no external influence will

sway our policies and attitudes. We stand now on a platform of financial strength, with a currency that is sound and with substantial reserves in our own Central Bank.

Alongside these facts has come the development of Kenya's human talents and resources. Projects to overcome shortage of trained manpower are now beginning to produce more African doctors, teachers, scientists and engineers. Our effective public control over power, transport and communication lines, will be further strengthened when remaining public transport companies sell, at least, fifty per cent of their shares to the citizens of Kenya.

The most important single form of economic motivation in our country is our agriculture. Public investment and control is represented by the Kenya Co-operative Creameries, the Kenya Meat Commission, the Uplands Bacon Factory and the Horticultural Development Authority. The Government is the most important single investor in our growing sugar industry, and is considering ways to bring about majority public ownership of flour-milling.

Public enterprise has been exerted in industry and commerce, through the Development Finance Company of Kenya and the Industrial and Commercial Development Corporation by partnership projects and assistance to local businessmen. We have our own national construction company building roads and erecting buildings. People who understand these realities, will see that we have all the ingredients of economic independence.

Emphasis has been placed on industry because it is only through a thriving industrial sector that a modern state can progress rapidly towards social justice.

Our new Development Plan will bear results of progress in rural areas, backed by the important theme of "Back to the Land". This movement must be made practical and effective and rooted as a vital factor in every family. We are now moving towards transforming the whole environment of rural

life. A beginning was made by the reallocation of land, settlement schemes and the registration of titles. Now there has been the provision of better homes, water schemes, electricity and other rural services. Such improvement must lead to more employment opportunities and my Government will establish Rural Industrial Development Centres. Three such centres will be established this year.

The whole economic machine is often said to be indivisible. This is true of our agriculture, industry and tourism, the three pillars of our progress, which must all move together.

My Government has considered the serious problem of unemployment. It has been decided therefore to introduce, as from 1st July of this year, a Tripartite Agreement under which all employers, including the Government, will be required to take on an additional ten per cent of their existing labour force. This is a short term solution and may not absorb all the unemployed. Let me assure you, however, that my Government will pursue this problem until a lasting solution is found.

Seven years ago we were economically handicapped. Today, no one can underestimate the all round progress that our country has made since independence.

I appeal to all people to rededicate themselves and work harder so that we can achieve our goal of complete economic independence.

State House,
NAIROBI.

28th May 1970.