

# HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH ON MADARAKA DAY 1st JUNE, 1965

The following is the text of the speech made today, (Tuesday, 1st June 1965) by the President, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta on Madaraka Day.

It is exactly two years ago when the people of Kenya assumed authority for Governmental affairs of this country. For me it was a happy and proud occasion, and I am very pleased to celebrate the second anniversary of *Madaraka* with you. In future *Madaraka Day* will be a public holiday.

When we celebrated this day last year, we were happy then to inaugurate the Kenya Air Force. At that time we promised to establish a Kenya Navy. This promise was fulfilled in December last year. I am, therefore, able to report to you that our Armed Forces now include the three services—the Army, the Air Force and the Navy. The modernization, training and Africanization of these forces is proceeding with all speed. Today we can truly be proud of the men in our Armed Forces.

The safety and security of our people, and the integrity of our country is the first responsibility of this Government. I would like, today, to congratulate the men of our Army and Police Forces for their role in the North-Eastern Province. The disturbances there have been a challenge to our determination and strength. Relative peace now exists in the area, but I want to ask the people there to give greater co-operation to the Government so that normal conditions can be restored to allow for fuller and speedier development of water facilities, education and communications.

My Government is aware that there are forces outside Kenya who have encouraged Shifta activities. Without these forces, the shifta gangs would have all been eliminated today. I want, therefore, to repeat the pledge of my Government to the people of Kenya. We shall not surrender a single inch of our territory nor shall we abdicate our responsibility to our people in the area.

The voluntary dissolution of the opposition was a historic achievement for Kenya people. It is the people who called for unity; it is the people who rejected tribalism and tribalists; it is you who refused to compromise on unity and forced the leaders to heed to your voice. But unity cannot be taken for granted; There are many forces that do not want to see us remain united. There are some people who remain tribalists at heart and who regard unity as their enemy. There are others whose personal ambitions drive them to forget the people and the nation. There are those people and nations outside Kenya who do not want the African Government to succeed. They want our nation to serve their interests and to work to their dictation. To remain united we must ever be vigilant.

For over forty years I fought and sacrificed my active life so that this country could get rid of the yoke of colonialism and imperialism. Many sons and daughters of our land suffered and shed blood so that our children may be born free. You can, therefore, understand my personal feelings about

the future. How can I tolerate anything that could compromise or jeopardize the promise to our children. Let me declare once more that as head of your Government, I shall fight with all my strength anyone, any group or any country that will be tempted to undermine our Independence. This pledge remains true whether such force should come from within or from outside Kenya.

I am confident that my faith is shared by all true nationalists in our country. What is more, it is supported by every worker, peasant, farmer and soldier in our country. I am equally confident that all the youth of Kenya would not hesitate for one moment to join me in fighting against forces of disunity, subversion, external intrigue and personal greed. Let me remind you that the defence of this country will depend on the loyalty and devotion of all our people just as much as on the uniformed services. Love for your country is the most effective weapon in fighting against subversion.

It is in this knowledge that I am able to say to you, and to the world that Kenya shall remain firm and resolute in her declared stand on positive non-alignment. We shall remain firm in pursuing our goals to bring our people food, education, medicine and a better standard of life.

I have referred to positive non-alignment, and feel that, today, I should speak more bluntly on this subject. We do not want this to become a slogan. We must make it a practical and working policy. Otherwise, it could be exploited or used as a cover by those who do not care for non-alignment.

In the Party Manifesto we made it quite clear that non-alignment did not imply non-commitment. We cannot stand aside when issues confront Africa or the world. We have definite views on Rhodesia, Angola, South Africa, Vietnam, Malaysia and disarmament. We do not hesitate to express these views when the situation demands. But let me say it quite plainly today that Kenya shall not exchange one master for a new one. We intend to remain our own masters forever. Let every nation in the East or West take heed of this warning today.

We welcome genuine friendship, but we detest flattery. We welcome co-operation and assistance, but we shall not be bought or blackmailed. We may be under-developed, and our people may walk barefoot, but we are a proud people—proud of our heritage, our traditions and ancestry. What is more, we will not betray our children.

I must warn those in our country who seek to create confusion. It is true that we have passed through many years of Western imperialism. It is natural that we should detest Western Colonialism, and associate the word imperialism with the West. But if we are truly non-aligned we must not avoid making friends with those Western countries who extend an honest field of co-operation and trade. To do this is just to prove that we are not free and cannot separate good from bad. It proves that we still suffer from a colonial mentality. Some people deliberately try to exploit colonial hangover for their own selfish purposes or in order to serve some external force. If someone's judgement or opinion is wrong you should say so—but to accuse

him of imperialism because of this is sheer stupidity. We must reject such people publicly.

It is naive to think that there is no danger of imperialism from the East. In world power politics, the East has as much designs upon us as the West and would like us to serve their own interests. This is why we reject communism. It is infact the reason why we have chosen for ourselves the policy of non-alignment and African Socialism. To us Communism is as bad as Imperialism. What we want is "Kenya Nationalism" which helped us to win the struggle against Imperialism. We do not want somebody else's Nationalism. It is a sad mistake to think that you can get more food, more hospitals or schools by crying "communism".

I am amused by those who suggest that we cannot condemn something we have not seen or tested. I have even heard it said that our only threat is Neo-colonialism from the West.

I speak plainly on this subject today because the time has come for us to do so in order to leave no room for confusion. I am also happy that we have our constitution, a document on African Socialism and a Party Manifesto. These three documents have been endorsed by our people and Parliament and must be a guide to our new society. It is now for the public to judge the actions of the Government and the utterances of all our leaders according to what is laid down in these documents. The world is looking to see if we shall be able to live according to these policies and ideals.

On the 1st June, 1963, we all responded to the call of *Harambee*. By this call we said to the world that we would build a new Kenya through co-operation and hard work. We knew and accepted that the aspirations of our people will be realized only through hard work and discipline. There is no room here for the lazy and idle. There is no room for those who wait for things to be given for nothing. There is no place for leaders who hope to build a nation of slogans.

I will have nothing to do with those who seek to play upon the fears, anxieties and present problems of our people or our country. We must tell our people the truth. For instance, that in 1964 we had over 1 million children in primary schools and that number increased by 100,000 in 1965, but to continue to enrol more and more children, we will need more teachers and money from taxes.

Let me end on a happy note. In accordance with our promise to provide free medical services for people, I am pleased to announce today that the Government has decided as a first step, to introduce free medical services for all children at Government clinics and hospitals. Our nation has an urgent responsibility towards the children. This is in keeping with our traditions. I hope that in the coming months we can announce further measures in the fulfilment of our welfare programmes.

**H A R A M B E E !**