

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT,  
HON. DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P.,  
ON THE OCCASION OF MADARAKA DAY,  
TUESDAY, 1st JUNE, 1993**

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN,

Today we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the day we attained Internal Self-Government. Madaraka Day is an important occasion for all Kenyans because it marks the first significant step made by our people in their endeavour for freedom. I am glad to note that our friends here and abroad have sent us messages of best wishes and goodwill. I in turn convey our deep appreciation to them all for wishing us well now and in future. I also greet all Kenyans wherever they may be as they celebrate this historic day.

As we celebrate this year's Madaraka Day, it is important to recall the determination of our people who fought tirelessly against colonial domination. Those Kenyans were not disheartened by the many set-backs they encountered. They knew all along what lay ahead of the great sacrifices they were making. It was as a result of their commitment to our cause that 29 years ago on 1st June, 1963, we won the right to manage our own affairs.

The most lasting tribute we can pay to the great sons and daughters of this land who sacrificed their lives so that we could be free is to serve our people well and to love our country. We must respect the social and political institutions which we have built since independence. But above all, we should respect and preserve the social values which bind us together. That way we shall succeed in building a strong, independent and prosperous nation for the pride of our children and future generations.

FELLOW KENYANS,

Today is the second Madaraka Day since the amendment of section 2 (A) of our Constitution to re-introduce multi-party politics. Looking back, we truly have good reasons to thank Almighty God for steering us through a turbulent time. At the height of multi-party political electioneering last year, Kenyans were sharply divided along party lines. Indeed, most of our energy last year was directed towards non-productive political activities.

It is, therefore, not surprising that our economic productivity dropped significantly. Electioneering is now over and Kenyans have made their choice. It is now the responsibility of all Kenyans to concentrate on meaningful economic activities. Leaders who continue to engage in political agitation should now appreciate that the only way we can pull through the present economic difficulties is by leaving Kenyans to pursue activities that will improve their quality of life.

As I promised when I was sworn in as your President after the 29th December, 1992 elections, I shall continue to serve all Kenyans without discrimination. And I shall as I have done throughout my political career, continue to urge Kenyans to be united and to put the interests of our nation first. The importance of these virtues cannot be over-emphasized particularly during this time of competitive politics. And even if we hold different political views, we should accept the basic fact that we belong to one nation—Kenya. Our political beliefs, irrespective of their philosophical foundation should therefore aim at making our nation a better place to live in. If all leaders embraced that, then we would be building a firm foundation for multi-party politics in Kenya.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Since we attained independence, our country has achieved commendable growth in the major sectors of our economy. In the industrial field, for instance, we have made tremendous progress towards creating favourable conditions for industrial growth. Although in the past two years the economy has suffered a decline, it is the determination of my Government to reverse this trend so that the economy can start to grow again. My Government's firm commitment to these reforms is demonstrated by implementation of a number of reforms such as abolition of import licences, decontrol of prices of some essential commodities, lowering of corporate tax rates and the implementation of export oriented policy. Most of these measures are a continuation of the economic reform programmes which we embarked on in 1986 while others are in response to developments in the world economy.

In the long run, these reform measures are expected to achieve sustainable growth and development. However, in the short run, they are bound to have adverse effects on our people, especially

the poor; the disabled, women and children. In order to alleviate these effects, all our development programmes should take full regard to the social dimension and the welfare of these groups.

I am indeed glad to note that both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have acknowledged the need to address fully the social impact of all the reform programmes we have agreed upon. On behalf of the people of Kenya, I wish to thank the Bank and the Fund for their support and understanding on this matter. Also, I am particularly pleased that the two institutions share my vision and hope that Kenya will become an advanced economy with sustainable development with requisite social benefits to all.

It is my belief that this transformation will become meaningful only when the leadership of our various political parties fully embrace the cardinal principles of responsible management, demonstrate political goodwill, social and moral commitment to this nation. This is a task I have set firmly for my Government and it is a commitment I expect all leaders both in Government and the opposition to embrace.

In the recent past, the Government has been involved in continuous consultations and I have directed all officers in my Government that they must honour all our agreements with I.M.F., the World Bank and bilateral donors. I shall, personally, ensure that all agreements which we have entered into are carefully and fully implemented. All those concerned must ensure that discipline takes a prominent position during implementation of the various programmes.

However, as I have pointed out, economic reforms must not tend to favour the wealthy while increasingly marginalizing the poor. My Government will continue to ensure that food, education, shelter, drugs and basic agricultural inputs are available and affordable to the poor. This will always remain the main business of my Government, to be mindful of the welfare of the disadvantaged in our society.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Kenya has been able to build on the firm foundations we laid at independence because of the peace and stability that we continue to enjoy. In addition to holding elections every five years, we have also been able to periodically map out our development strategies and programmes. We have published a new development plan every five years. Further, we have initiated a number of policy documents such as sessional papers Number 10 of 1965 and Number 1 of 1986. These plans and papers articulate the strategies required to meet the changing needs and aspirations of our people.

The five year plan period was adopted to coincide with the lifetime of our Parliament and also for the fact that it represented the average lifespan of most development projects. However, most of our budgeting and programming has for a number of years now covered a period of three years. Thus both the public investment programme and the programme review and forward budget cover a period of three years.

It has, therefore, become apparent that rapid changes that take place in the world economy have made concrete planning for the long-term even more uncertain, and it has become increasingly difficult to plan our development programme in detail for a period of five years. While the Government will continue to map out development strategies for the long-term by preparing specific policy documents as has been the case in the past, I have directed that future national and district development plans will cover a period of three years starting with the 1994-96 plan.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The economic challenges that are confronting us require regular consultations between the private and public sectors. Accordingly, I have directed the relevant ministries and departments to constitute an economic consultative committee to advise on broad economic issues as we steer through this period of recession and as we consolidate our development efforts.

## FELLOW KENYANS,

Since I took over as Head of State in 1978, my Government has aspired to demonstrate in practical terms the need to conserve our environment. On various occasions, I have insisted that afforestation programme must be intensified to check the encroaching desert, and that soil conservation should be an integral part of all farming activities. Also, I have ensured that dam construction becomes an integral part of our conservation efforts and that indigenous trees which protect river catchment areas are protected.

Our achievements in this area should be reviewed and our efforts redoubled in realization that forests and wildlife reserves are of economic importance to us and indeed the entire human race.

But as we consolidate our achievements in various fields of development, I would like to point out that the conduct of a section of our Press is still a major concern to us. I have noted with disappointment that certain publications have continued to fan tribal hatred among various communities as well as bring into disrepute our cherished central institutions. Indeed some newspapers and magazines have exploited the freedom of expression which is protected in section 79 of our Constitution to publish stories that are certainly seditious and malicious under the guise of freedom of the Press.

The laws of our land are very clear on how to deal with such publications. In the recent past, we have had to apply the law to deal with printers who seem not to care about the effects the offending publications have had on Kenyans. These publications have become vehicles of suspicion and tribal animosity through the spread of lies and other propaganda materials. As a Government we would be betraying Kenyans if we kept quiet when the bonds that bind us together are being torn apart. We will therefore act in accordance with the law to protect national unity no matter the cost. It is my hope that those concerned will appreciate the damage they are doing to their motherland and desist from printing such publications.

On the global scene, Kenya continues to participate in international assignments. Apart from our troops which are involved in United Nations peace-keeping missions in various parts of the world, Kenyans are also participating as election officials in

Cambodia. And in our region, Kenya continues to play a central role in seeking for an end to the conflict in Sudan. That we have managed to undertake these international assignments besides tackling many problems facing us, underscores the wish of Kenyans to restore peace in conflict-torn parts of the world.

FELLOW KENYANS,

The conflicts which grip parts of the world should make us resolve to keep peace which we have enjoyed since independence. Our fore-fathers paid with their lives to secure our freedom so that we could live in peace. As we celebrate this year's Madaraka Day, let us resolve to live in Peace, Love and Unity with one another.

*THANK YOU.*