

Broadcast Address by
His Excellency The President
on the
Second Anniversary of Uhuru
12th December 1965

Countrymen

Tomorrow 12th December will mark the second anniversary of our *Uhuru*. The two years that now lie behind us were our own years, lived as free men. We have travelled far, on a road of our own choosing. As we celebrate this occasion with joy, let us remember all those of our countrymen and friends by whose sacrifices freedom was won. Let us dedicate ourselves anew to the cause of freedom and nation building. Let us tell ourselves and our children, with words and songs, the significance of this occasion. But whatever we do, let us do it without bitterness of the past but with happiness and maturity of a free and proud nation.

Our Republic is stronger today than ever before. We are united under one Kanu Party; the numbers and units of our Armed Forces have increased and their fire power improved; the economy continues to expand despite the drought, and we have built a Civil Service composed mainly of our own people.

What matters most in a country like Kenya is the positive commitment of all the people to progress. *Uhuru* released the energy that for so many years was frustrated. As Kenyans we now know who we are, and what we stand for, and along what path of human progress we are determined to move. I therefore welcome all those persons who demonstrated faith in our future and have registered as Kenya citizens.

As I said on *Madaraka* Day two and a half years ago, progress will not fall to this country like manna from Heaven. Since then, I have been greatly heartened and encouraged by the response to the call of *Harambee*. All over the country *Harambee* projects have sprung up through the people's own initiative. The spirit shown by those 25,000 landless families who have been settled on a million acres of farming land has given me much pride. So also has the response for voluntary famine relief contributions, which now amount to about £90,000. With this money, and the expected good crops of this season, we now hope to overcome the famine challenge. I wish to take this opportunity to express my thanks most sincerely to the people who have generously contributed to this worthy cause.

I say to you today that Kenya's real progress is visible. All my long experience of public life, and of travels to many countries, has taught me that real progress is not just a matter of figures. It lies in the spirit of the people, and there are many signs. As I travel to all parts of the Republic, I see more and more of our

ordinary men and women looking fresh and vigorous and modern. Athletes like Kipchoge have put Kenya on the map. As one person expressed it, "Our people look straight, not downwards as in the colonial times." Increasingly now, we feel the benefit of self-respect and pride in ourselves as human beings.

So important is this kind of progress that nothing must stand in its way. And to this end, I am most encouraged to see that crime in the Republic has gone down. Countrymen, we struggled for *Uhuru* in order to build a society in which each one of us can feel free and secure. Those responsible for criminal acts should no longer feel that they have friends among us.

At the State Opening of Parliament last month, I outlined to the country the range of policies and programmes within which we shall now advance. Our revised Development Plan will provide the full detail of our objectives and will bring out fresh concepts of practical development. But until we have secured universal literacy in our Republic, there remains the problem of conveying the content of all these speeches and documents to all our people.

Those of us who can read and write appreciate how enjoyment of life is extended by quiet reading in one's home. Indeed, an illiterate man cannot be truly free; he is a slave to other people's thought and understanding. I therefore attach great importance to the literacy campaign.

The Government accepts its own duty. But in this field we come back yet again to personal initiative. I tell you today that, between these annual celebrations, our joy and pride in our country will be enhanced by the number of our fellow men who have acquired the light of reading and writing.

The Republic in these past two years has created its character by building on the dynamic force of nationalism. We have advanced on the sure foundations of a sense of unity and a single purpose.

In this advance, the Republic very much depends on the labour and initiative of countless men and women, some of whose names are not known to the public. I have in mind, for instance, the headmaster who, year in and year out, has continued to improve the organization of his school; the chairman of a co-operative who has continued to serve his members; the doctors, nurses, policemen and soldiers who remain on duty long after most of us have gone to bed. I should like to pay real tribute to these people.

But in the early days of nation building, there are always some people who remain slaves of the past. There are those who still occupy their little worlds of doubt. There are those who find some comfort in the spreading of suspicion. There are those who cannot rise above envy and continue to speak as if *Uhuru* meant the abolition of work and demolition of other people's property. There are those who cling to the barren past of tribalism and

instead of leading people to new areas of progress, continue to speak as if other people are the authors of their misfortunes. I am happy to say that already these negative minds are disappearing. These people are being bypassed by the national stream of progress and of thought.

The truth is simple. For the man today who wants to travel or to move his produce, new roads are there. For a man who wants a farm, there is the settlement programme. For the family seeking education, there are new schools and training facilities. For the producer needing loans, there is machinery for this. For people in sickness, there are new hospitals and health services. For the man who needs justice, there is our own Parliament and a law of the people. For those seeking outlets for skills, there are new factories and enterprises.

On so many of these anniversaries, or occasions which call for ceremony throughout the year, a great contribution is made by the men of the armed forces and the police. I wish to pay tribute today to the manner in which all security forces carry out their duties on State and other social occasions, and in the sphere of many nation-building activities. Many dangers and difficulties have been surmounted by these men, within and beyond the North-Eastern Province of Kenya.

You will expect me to say just a word about Rhodesia. As you know, the three East African Governments, together with the Government of Zambia, have together decided on measures that should be taken in the circumstances. Work to implement all the agreed

measures is now continuing. My Government is prepared, with the approval of Parliament, to support Zambia to maintain her territorial integrity. The position of Kenya is to give full support to our brothers in Rhodesia, to secure their just rights and to become fully independent of all foreign domination. We will adhere to O.A.U. and United Nations resolutions on Rhodesia.

It is fitting that on this anniversary, our National Social Security Fund should be launched. Starting within Government and other large employers of labour, this scheme will expand to cover 15,000 employers and 400,000 men and women in employment.

In accordance with the Kanu Manifesto and the principles of our African Socialism, this social security programme will have as its main objective the provision of benefits for old age. It will also bring increased security for workers or their families in the event of sickness or death.

Nation building must not only meet the problems of today, but also look towards the future. I am happy to reflect that so many of those who have done so much to make Kenya's future possible, may henceforth contemplate an age of retirement free from anxiety and want.

And now let us move together into our third year, with all its tasks and aspirations, strong in our *Harambee* spirit and committed to nation building.

mpango mwingine wa kitaifa utakaoitwa Akiba ya Usalama wa Jamii (National Social Security Fund). Mpango huu utanzia na Serikali na Makampuni makubwa ya biashara. Lakini baadaye utapanuka na kuwaingiza matajiri 15,000 na wafanyi kazi 400,000 waume kwa wake.

Kufuatia maongozi ya chama cha KANU, na kufuatia yale ya Ujamii wa Kiafrika, Nia ya mpango huu wa Usalama wa Jamii, itakuwa ni kuwapatia wafanyi kazi ufanisi katika siku zao za uzeeni. Mpango wenyewe utaongeza usalama wa wafanyi kazi na wa jamaa zao wakati wa maradhi au baada ya kufariki kwao.

Kujenga taifa siyo tu kuondoa matatizo ya Leo, bali pia ni kuangalia na kutunza siku za usoni. Leo nina furaha kubwa kuona kwamba watu wetu ambao wameitumikia Kenya kwa miaka mingi, kutoka leo wanaweza kutupa macho na kuona mbele yao, maisha ya uzeeni yasiyo na mashaka wala upungufu.

Basi wananchi twendeni pamoja tukaanzie mwaka wetu wa tatu wa Uhuru tukiwa tayari kupambana na kazi zake zote na tamaa zake zote. Tujitolee kujenga taifa kwa nguvu zetu zote, tukiongozwa na ule moyo wetu wa "Harambee".

Office of the President

NAIROBI

9th December 1965