

**ADDRESS TO THE NATION BY HIS EXCELLENCY
THE PRESIDENT MZEE JOMO KENYATTA ON THE
OCCASION OF THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF
INDEPENDENCE ON THE 12th DECEMBER 1967**

HONOURABLE GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Today we celebrate the day of our deliverance from colonial rule and domination. This is an occasion on which we must give our thanks to God for guiding us along the path of peace and progress. We pray that He may continue to guide us in all our undertakings.

I wish to pay tribute to all those who have given me and my Ministers full support and loyalty. This has enabled this country to make spectacular progress in every sphere of our national life. It is evident that many of our people live better and fuller lives than ever before.

We know that we have not solved all our problems. But with God's help and our own efforts, we shall be able to do so.

Your Government is tackling the problems that face you with all the strength and resources at its disposal. I am certain that with determination we shall succeed.

During the past four years we have gone a long way in achieving political equality, social justice, human dignity and equal opportunity for our people. Although we have not reached the final goal, we know it is not far off.

Just under two months ago, I announced tax relief measures for the poorer section of our community. Further, land for the landless who are still in temporary villages is now being demarcated in Nyandarua and Thika areas. These measures are an indication that the Government recognizes that there are still some of our people who are still struggling for decent existence

and are in need of Government assistance. We are determined that all social injustices shall be eliminated from our society. As more and more targets in our Development Plan are achieved, more and more social injustices will be eliminated.

It would be a sad mistake if we expect the Government to do everything for us. The Government has created numerous opportunities for our citizens. You are therefore required to sweat and toil, to be able to reap the maximum benefit from these opportunities. I urge you that, we must move together to the fifth year of our independence determined to work even harder than ever before. With the support and confidence which you have given me and my Government, no problem is big enough to stand in our way of realizing the great potential with which our country is well endowed.

You are well aware of the progress so far achieved in finding a peaceful solution to the problem of the North-Eastern Province. This year has seen a most remarkable achievement in the signing of the Agreement between our brothers of the Somalia Republic and ourselves on the 29th October 1967 in Arusha. Since then, shifta incidents have considerably decreased in the affected areas. Our people and the people of Somalia have got a good reason to rejoice at this joint victory. We hope that the human energy and the material resources which have been committed to this futile conflict can now be turned to better use for the benefit of the whole nation.

I am sure you would want me to publicly express our thanks to the President of Zambia, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, for his wise mediation in these talks. I also wish to thank our neighbours and friends, The Emperor, Haile Selassie, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and Dr. Milton Obote, for the interest they have shown in these talks and their desire to see that an amicable solution to this problem is found.

Let us today reassure our brothers in the Republic of Somalia that we deeply and sincerely wish to live on terms of peace and brotherhood with them, for it is to our mutual advantage that we do so.

I would like at this stage to pay special tribute to our Security Forces who have never faltered in the execution of a difficult task which has faced them in those affected areas.

To the members of the shifta who may still be in the bush, I would ask them to lay down their arms and return to their homes to assist in the development of our North-Eastern Province. It is our genuine desire to improve the conditions of life of our citizens in these areas. But the rate at which development will be undertaken in the affected areas depends on how soon conditions return to normal.

I wish to pay special tribute to the Civil Service for their dedication to duty. These men and women have confirmed my age-long faith in the ability of Africans to rule themselves. Since independence, our Public Service has been Africanized to the extent of ninety-two per cent. All major decisions of the Government are now made by our sons and daughters. Despite this rapid Africanization, there has been no fall in the standards of efficiency. Our African Socialism is a doctrine of peace and stability amongst peoples of different colours, creeds and racial origins. It is a doctrine of brotherhood in nation-building.

Having almost completed the Africanization of the Public Service, the Government has embarked on the Africanization of personnel in the private sector. The Immigration Act which as you know is intended to deal with this programme, came into force on the first of December this year. A Kenyanization of Personnel Bureau which will collect data regarding available citizen manpower who can take over jobs now held by expatriates, has been set up. We are determined to see that citizens are given preference in available employment. This is the purpose of this Act, and I appeal to employers to co-operate with the Government in ensuring that jobs which can be done by citizens are offered to citizens.

Besides Africanization of personnel, the Government is also taking practical measures to ensure that Africans have a greater share of business and industry in this country. Through the activities of the K.N.T.C., many African business-

men are now well established in distributive trade. The Government has this year introduced into Parliament the Trade Licensing Bill which, when it comes into operation, will be a landmark in the Government's efforts to Africanize. We are convinced that the measures we have introduced will effectively ensure that our people play their part in the commercial life of this country.

I am very pleased to note the response the people have given to my call to return to the land. The results of this can now be clearly seen. This year, for example, we have surplus maize. The Government has constructed storage facilities to ensure that we are never faced with maize shortage again. But even after allowing for this strategic reserve, we shall still have surplus for export. Those who have heeded this call will never regret it. And I hope that those still loitering in towns will follow this example to return to the land.

Since independence, the Government has given increased emphasis on livestock production. In this field, local producers have proved their abilities. Africans now contribute over sixty per cent of commercially marketed milk and have aided greatly in maintaining Kenya's reputation as a high-quality low-cost producer. Our dairy industry is an example of a field in which we can compete on equal terms with virtually any country in the world. Dairying is an industry where the smallholder is well-equipped to do his share.

The Government on its part has set up about two hundred and fifty rural dairies in all parts of the country in order to provide smallholders with a suitable commercial outlet for their milk. Over forty thousand producers now deliver about ten million gallons of milk per year to these rural dairies and obtain a return of nearly one million pounds per year.

These have been encouraging results, which have made the Government, through the Range Management Department, redouble its efforts to boost our national livestock productivity by tapping the potential of our undeveloped range and pastoral areas. Through the efforts of this Department, twelve African

ranching companies have come into existence since *Uhuru*. It is planned that there should be about two hundred and thirty ranches, and one hundred commercial grazing schemes in operation by 1972.

Our Government is a Government of action. I have said many times that we are not going to build a nation on slogans. You have heeded the call for self-help, as can be demonstrated by the many services which the people have provided for themselves through the self-help projects. The Government has always recognized the part that this scheme could play in nation building. The Government supports you in your efforts and will progressively take many of them over, as our country's resources allow. My Minister for Education recently announced the Government's take-over of eighty *Harambee* schools in the course of the next three years. This will add fourteen thousand secondary school places for our children.

Today is not an occasion for me to review all that the Government has done or intends to do in the coming year. This occasion will soon come when I open a new session of Parliament early next year. This is an occasion for rejoicing as we commemorate the achievement of our *Uhuru* and *Jamhuri*. To mark this anniversary, I have ordered the release of one thousand men and women prisoners to enable them to join our celebrations as Free Citizens.

While rejoicing, we must not forget that some of our brothers on this Continent still live under oppressive laws and exploitation as in Rhodesia, South Africa, Angola and Mozambique. It is a sad reflection on those nations who normally boast of their democratic traditions and love for justice, yet continue to strengthen and support these governments. We in Kenya, in conjunction with the rest of Africa, shall not abandon the sacred trust to liberate our brothers who are still under colonial rule, and as we celebrate our own independence, let us remember our brothers who are still languishing under the indignity of colonialism. Let us also reassure them of our continued support.

Countrymen, the four years that have passed have been characterized by peace, stability and rapid economic progress. With the foundations which we have laid, let us forge ahead, determined that our fifth year of independence will be accompanied by even greater success.

H A R A M B E E

STATE HOUSE,
NAIROBI.

