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African Leaders' State of Africa Report

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African leaders' state of Africa report 2005

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**BOSTON UNIVERSITY
AFRICAN PRESIDENTIAL
ARCHIVES AND
RESEARCH CENTER**

African Leaders
STATE OF AFRICA REPORT 2005



Cover Design
Wendy Bergquist

Eternal Presence
John Wilson
Courtesy of the Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists
Roxbury, Massachusetts

Photography
Vernon Doucette
Boston University Photo Service

CONTENTS

	Letter from the Director	2
	Foreword	4
	Republic of Benin	6
	Republic of Botswana	16
	Republic of Cape Verde	30
	Republic of Ghana	38
	Republic of Kenya	48
	Republic of Mali	54
	Republic of Mauritius	62
	Republic of Mozambique	70
	Republic of Namibia	84
	Federal Republic of Nigeria	100
	Republic of Senegal	106
	Republic of South Africa	116
	United Republic of Tanzania	132
	Republic of Zambia	168

APARC and Its Mission

Since the 1990s, a number of sub-Saharan African countries have been making significant strides in furthering democratic and free-market reform. These changes reflect the vision and dynamism of the present generation of African leaders in those countries.

The African Presidential Archives and Research Center at Boston University (APARC) is collecting documents that chronicle this phase in Africa's development, taking a multidisciplinary approach to teaching about Africa, and

establishing a forum for African leaders to engage other political, business, academic, and public-sector leaders regarding Africa's global relationships.

To learn more about the center or to receive additional copies of this report, please contact the Boston University African Presidential Archives and Research Center, 141 Bay State Road, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, 617-353-5452, aparc@bu.edu.



From the Director

The *African Leaders State of Africa Report 2005* is one of the core projects of the African Presidential Archives and Research Center (APARC) at Boston University. This year's report features contributions from fourteen African heads of state. In the four years APARC has produced this report, one constant that has characterized the report has been "change." One change has been the increase in the number of countries we track, which is a reflection of the pace of reform and progress on the continent. Another change has been the continuing progression toward peaceful transitions of power, which has resulted in a new generation of leadership coming into its own. A unique characteristic of this report, as Kenyan president Mwai Kibaki notes in his contribution to this volume, is that it is a means "to disseminate the *African point of view* to investors, policy makers, and the general public."

In September 2005, I traveled to London, Brussels, Dar es Salaam, and Johannesburg to make preparations for APARC's upcoming African Presidential Roundtable 2006, involving former African heads of state and key public- and private-sector leaders from around the world. During my meetings, I was heartened by the

interest on the part of European Union leaders and the commitment of African leaders relative to the continent's continued growth and development. Between meetings, I had an opportunity to read the latest "hot" new book on Africa, *The State of Africa: A History of Fifty Years of Independence*, by Martin Meredith.

Several things struck me about the book. The first was its encyclopedic scope of information. The second was the glaring lack of in-depth treatment of the impact of colonialism, the Cold War, and apartheid on Africa over the past fifty years. (It seemed to me that a book that spans more than seven hundred pages would devote at least seventy pages to such seminal events.) The final thing that struck me about the book was the conclusion that the defining theme of the continent's past fifty years is one of "missed opportunities." Despite the voluminous amount of information, the book is essentially one in a long list of "Afro-pessimistic" accounts of trends and developments in Africa over the past five decades.

The record of accomplishment of the countries covered in this year's *African Leaders State of Africa Report* stands in stark contrast to the pessimistic view put forward in the highly touted work by Martin Meredith. The number of countries that this report chronicles continues to increase from year to year as more and more countries embrace with vigor a singular vision of democratic governance and the sort of economic reforms that will mean a renewed sense of hope for ordinary citizens on the continent. One such example of the trend toward democratization is reflected in Namibia: "On March 21 [Namibia] witnessed a historic event in its relatively short existence as an independent and sovereign republic. . . . As a crowning moment, for the achievement of the past fifteen years, the people of Namibia witnessed a smooth transition of presidential power in a peaceful, democratic, and constitutional manner." In his final State of the Nation address, outgoing Tanzanian president Benjamin Mkapa makes a point of noting constitutional changes that "require that at least 30

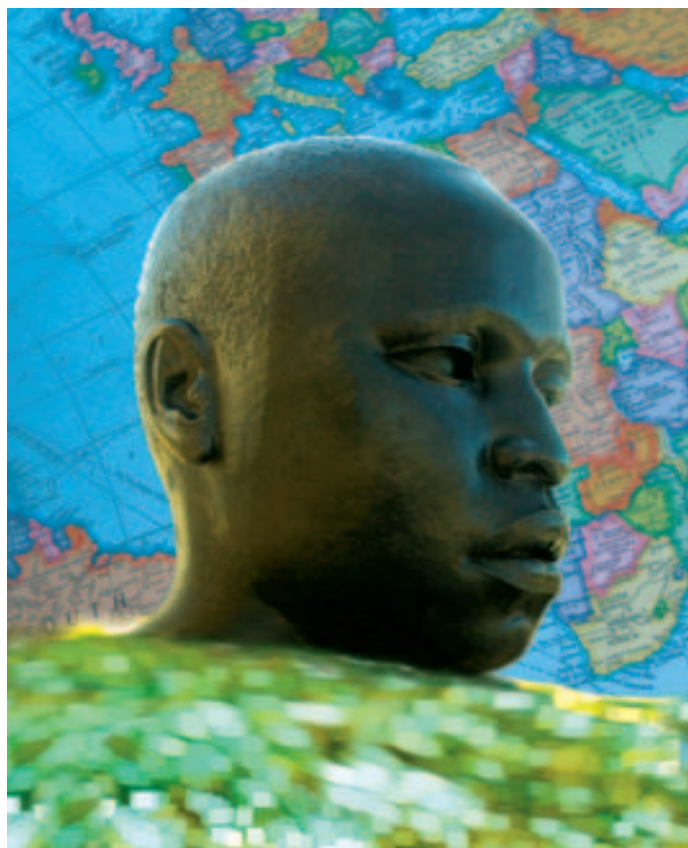
percent of all members of Parliament be women,” as well as exponential increases in tourism and mining and the subsequent windfall of employment opportunities resulting from such growth. South Africa, under the leadership of President Thabo Mbeki, continues to be a beacon of inclusion, a country that prides itself on “belong[ing] to all who live in it, black and white.”

The concluding note that I would sound relative to this year’s report relates to the cover. The statue, *Eternal Presence*, gracing the cover stands on the grounds of the National Center of Afro-American Artists in Roxbury, Massachusetts, and is an apt pictorial representation of the promise and potential that defines the contributions to this year’s *African Leaders State of Africa Report*. The *Eternal Presence* was commissioned by the National Center of Afro-American Artists to cel-

eborate human creativity and spirituality from the beginning of the human family to the present. It is a fitting representation of the contents of this volume in that the visions and values reflected in the various reports stand as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the capacity of Africans to create new beginnings against the backdrop of a calamitous past.



Ambassador Charles R. Stith, Director,
African Presidential Archives and
Research Center at Boston University,
and Senior Editor,
African Leaders State of Africa Report 2005
February 2006



Foreword

As the fourth Balfour African President-in-Residence at the African Presidential Archives and Research Center (APARC), it is my pleasure to write a few words in introduction to the *African Leaders State of Africa Report 2005*.

My tenure has proved to be fulfilling in many respects. In particular, it provided me with the environment and the opportunity to interact in matters of mutual interest with a wide spectrum of American society. It was an honor for me to work, for a common purpose and with a variety of personalities, on diverse issues of interest to humanity. My tenure as the Balfour African President-in-Residence has enabled me to have an even greater appreciation of the need for a volume like APARC's *State of Africa Report* to fill the gaping holes in American's perspective on the African continent.

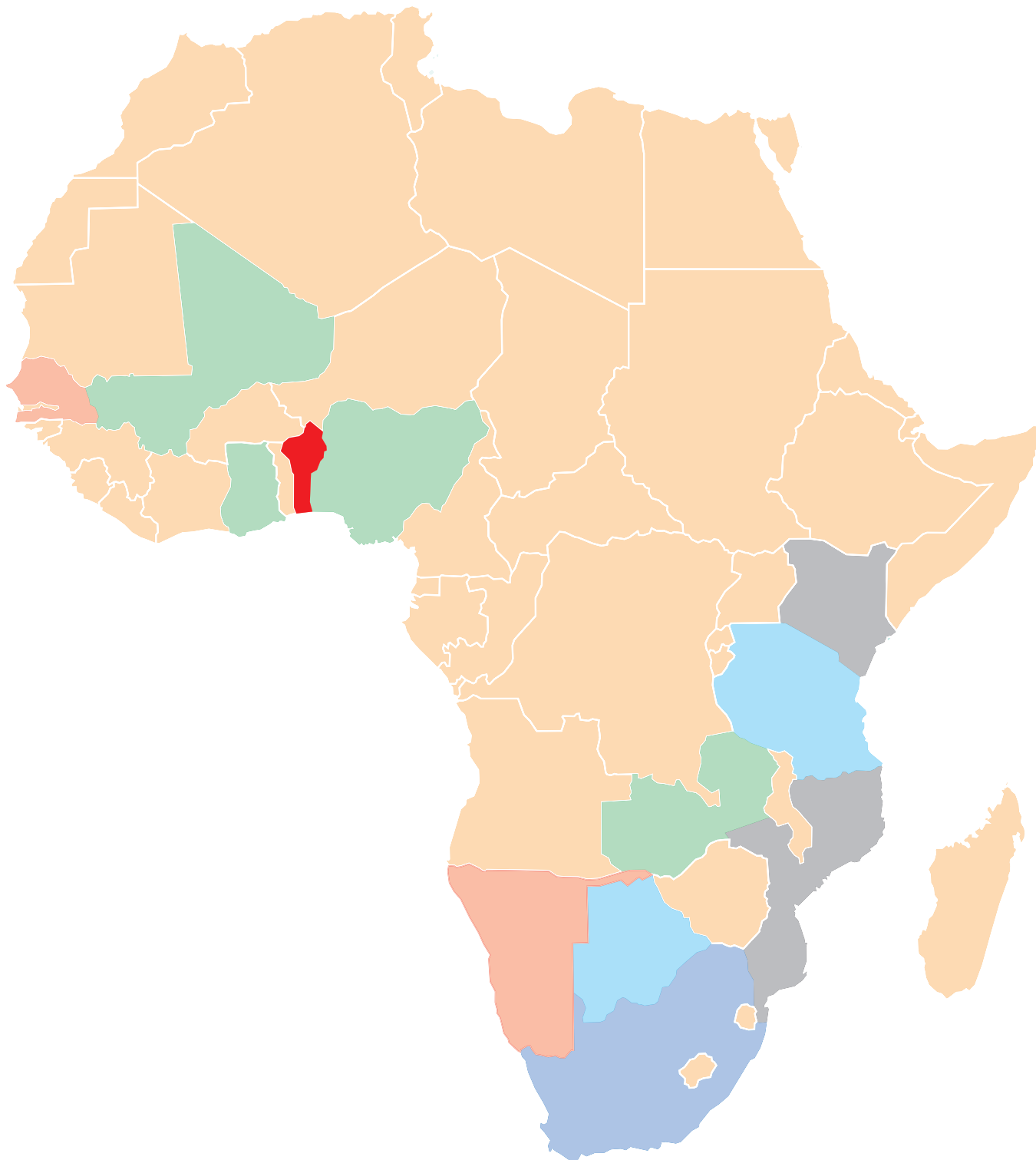
The current issue of the *African Leaders State of Africa Report* provides insight into a myriad of challenges that confront the African continent. However, this report also highlights the accomplishments that have been made in areas of good political leadership, the process of democratization, and governance in Africa. The tone of the report reflects the dedication and success of African countries in emphasizing the importance of increased responsibility, accountability, and transparency on the part of African leaders in order to maximize accomplishments both economic and political. It is my opinion that this progress is, in part, a reflection of the mature and expanding collaboration between the African leaders that has been strongly encouraged and facilitated by APARC. In conclusion, few organizations provide a balanced view of the continent or a venue for Africa's voice to be heard relative to its problems and possibilities. APARC has proved that it is dedicated to acknowledging and reporting the successes that have been achieved on the continent as well as the challenges the continent continues to face. For this development, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Ambassador Charles R. Stith.



Finally, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Boston University, the Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, and to all those who contributed to making my tenure fruitful. I encourage APARC to continue in its ambitious mission and look forward to hearing of future projects to make Africa and its leaders more accessible to the public on both the African and the American continents and, more important, to university students who are the leaders of tomorrow.

Q. K. J. Masire
Former President of the
Republic of Botswana,
Fourth Balfour President-in-Residence,
African Presidential Archives and
Research Center
February 2006

BENIN



BENIN



**Address to the Nation by
His Excellency Mathieu Kérékou,
President of the Republic of Benin,
on the Eve of the Celebration of
Independence Day
July 31, 2005
Cotonou**



Tomorrow, Monday, August 1, 2005, all Beninese men and women, both within the country and abroad, will rejoice for the forty-fifth time, in a spirit of unity and of intense and dedicated patriotism, in the invigorating and exciting memory of the collective sense of legitimate pride and strong hope that was experienced by those who worked for and witnessed the outstanding historical event that was our country's accession to independence and international sovereignty on August 1, 1960.

This is a special moment to accurately take stock of what has been achieved since our dear country, Benin, joined the free and sovereign states, strongly determined to face its great national destiny and the overall process of constructing a more equitable and humane world, a brotherly and peaceful world.

It is the right moment to honor the eternal memory of our worthy and valiant elders who shed their blood in harsh and multifaceted struggles to preserve our identity and fully achieve the profound aspirations of the Beninese people for freedom, justice, and social progress.

As I address you, the Beninese people, on the eve of this commemoration, I would like to urge you to take a brief retrospective look at those forty-five years of independence, a forty-five-year journey marked by important events that have led to profound qualitative changes in political, economic, social, and cultural fields, and have given the overall development of our national life its internal dynamic and its ascending curve.

On August 1, 1960, with general rejoicing and popular jubilation, we celebrated, sang, and danced to the beat of our national anthem, "l'Aube

Nouvelle,” convinced that by our own creative genius, our hard work, our spirit of brotherhood, and our sense of justice, we would be able to rid ourselves of the adverse consequences of slavery and the handicaps of the colonial legacy so as to build a modern and prosperous nation.

Unfortunately, we quickly became disillusioned because the broken chains were regularly and tragically replaced by new constraints, alternating victories and failures, great expectations and deep disappointments.

To sum up the situation, we can say:

In the political arena, our country has undoubtedly taken decisive steps toward progress. However, early tribal and regionally based opposition, along with the systematic resort to violence entertained by defiant politicians, ruined the national cohesion and compromised our economic development.

The year 1963 was a major milestone, with the first intervention of the army in the nation’s political life, following an urgent appeal launched by trade unionists faced with the unjustified and unbearable inability of the political class to properly perform its national duty. The military elite discovered this and granted itself a political role in the settlement of crises and the management of public affairs.

In 1972 a new incursion by the army into the political arena put an end to the Presidential Council, a three-pronged ruling system affected by countless disagreements, completely caught in an irreparable deterioration, and faced with repeated attacks by trade unionists and social and youth organizations. The new political environment established by the military and the revolutionary government helped to restore the confidence of citizens from our cities and rural areas, reestablished state authority, and favored the beginning of a more prominent patriotic conscience, the blooming of social and cultural values, as well as the strengthening of national unity and economic development.

On the whole, we began to believe in a better future.

But quickly, mismanagement of our state-owned companies, various rifts and serious

deviances in all sectors and at all levels, undermined the foundations of the national economy, causing tremendous difficulties for the institutional system, which openly displayed the operating limitations of a monolithic structure as a governing method.

Therefore, in the utmost interest of the nation and as a response to my inner voice as a conscientious citizen, I designed and implemented the process that led to the National Conference of Active Forces of the Nation in February 1990.

To the surprise of those who knew nothing about our country except for its sad reputation as “Africa’s sick child,” we have through a powerful collective action succeeded in overcoming fate, putting the country on its feet again, and providing our dear and beautiful country with outstanding prospects for the beginning of a democratic revival in a national atmosphere of dynamic and constructive consensus.

After fifteen years of democracy, peace has prevailed in our country. Official institutions are properly functioning. Beninese men and women enjoy fundamental freedoms. Freedom of the press is guaranteed. The legal environment is stabilized for investments. Constitutional provisions allow for changes in political power and for the succession of the head of state. These fundamental provisions of our Constitution of December 11, 1990, must be able to withstand all opportunistic revisions, especially as—beyond any cyclical and subjective concerns that motivate them—such provisions constitute a basic reference and authenticity test for the new democratic culture that political stakeholders must now demonstrate.

Today in Benin the culture of democratic pluralism and of political tolerance is taking root. The stability of our institutions guarantees the basis for development and the conditions for sound socioeconomic competition.

We have undoubtedly achieved notable results in the various other sectors of national life. The implementation of important projects scheduled in the government action plan has helped to strengthen basic infrastructures and to build a number of levels in the social, educational, and medical fields.

It is obvious that our country today enjoys a prestigious reputation and goodwill in the international arena.

We can be proud that Benin made an impressive showing through its honorable participation in the final phases of the Senior and Junior Africa Cups and for the Junior World Cup in soccer.

However, we should honestly and without indulgence acknowledge that we still have a lot to do to secure the welfare of our populations in towns and rural areas. For that reason, we must break the vicious cycle of poverty and reinforce the base of harmonious and sustainable socioeconomic development.

Today the Beninese are facing problems of daily survival, dwindling purchasing power, and a high cost of living due to the difficult international economic climate.

This is why the levels of economic growth that were registered up to now have proved to be so poor, even though they are above the subregional average. When compared to demographic growth levels, these indicators appear inadequate to fight poverty and underdevelopment efficiently.

Despite the commendable efforts of our brave farmers, our workers in diverse sectors, our business community, and the government, the Beninese economy remains fragile. It suffers the effects of the disappointing performance of the world economy, which is characterized by recession, a dramatic rise in petroleum prices, and a continuous deterioration of trade conditions.

We must reverse this situation by establishing objective and subjective conditions that are conducive to the gradual reflation of the national economy. In this process, we should first and foremost focus our efforts and actions on breaking the numerous bottlenecks that compromise the general and sector-based development policies that were designed and implemented in the past decade.

The National Studies for Long-Term Perspectives have long defined the overall goal that consists of making Benin by 2025 “a leading country, a country well-governed, united and peaceful, with a prosperous and competitive economy, a country endowed with a rich culture

and social well-being.” The government action plan (GAP) and the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) paper are based on this overall goal. In line with this vision that is defined and shared by all cross-sections of the nation, the planned and scheduled actions are being carried out according to the funds secured at the national level and with the participation of our development partners.

A well-thought-out and properly implemented policy can only lead to the overall goal, which is to make our economy more competitive and to provide our population with the physical, social, and financial conditions it needs to live satisfactorily. Unfortunately, this is not yet the case in our country.

In such conditions, and in order to forge ahead confidently and successfully toward sustainable development and modernity, we need to carefully examine our immediate environment and identify hindrance factors: in a nutshell, any barriers likely to compromise the full achievement of our growth and progress goals.

As you are aware, I used to call Beninese intellectuals to account and constantly remind them of their unique responsibilities in the national social life of the country. Indeed, we have always considered, and rightly so, that the principal factor, the decisive participant in pursuing the development of our country, is none other than humankind.

I am absolutely convinced that everything depends on the individual, on the person who is an autonomous decision maker, an exclusive and comprehensive creation resulting from an original and complex cultural gestation, a person endowed with determination and action. However, human beings are and remain the largest predators of democracy, the rule of law, and the economic development of our country. Indeed, it is not enough to have laws; we also need people who are ready and dedicated to enforce both the spirit and letter of these laws, people who are capable honestly and efficiently of managing institutions in compliance with the rules of good governance.

We need individuals willing to ensure that all cross-sections of society are integrated and to

take into account decisions passed by the government. We need people who are truly honest for the judiciary system to operate properly. We need executives with wide experience who are well versed in their fields, conscientious, and honest to undertake a sound management of our companies and offices by displaying goodwill and full respect for public property to achieve the planned objectives.

Unfortunately, we all acknowledge and openly regret that most executives and officials at various levels of the government administration system, for awfully selfish reasons, compete with one another with diabolical cunning to sidetrack goals and decisions passed by institutions, thus endangering national cohesion, social peace, and institutional stability.

By virtue of the principle of free will so generously bestowed by the Lord, each of us adheres to a series of standards that constitute the code of ethics with regard to our behavior as citizens, both in his/her private life and his/her public social practice.

A citizen's value is not related only to his/her qualifications, training, professional skills, consideration and respect inspired by his/her social status, and his/her political rank. These qualities do indeed matter, but even more important is the citizen's adherence, in his daily social practice, to the principles and ethical rules associated with the administration of public affairs, a respect for the common good, the primacy of the general interest, and the need for self-sacrifice so that the entire nation may grow and prosper.

Today our community essentially suffers from a moral sickness, the lack of faith having hardened the hearts of many of our fellow citizens. Our salvation lies in the restoration and promotion of the principles and sacred values that confer greatness on modern nations.

A citizen's high sense of responsibility serves to foster democracy and the rule of law in terms of operation, strength, and sustainability. The Beninese state needs people without any common prejudices, preconceived ideas, blind passions, or extremist views, which lead to intolerance and violence.

Our country needs to be inspired, led, and directed by men and women imbued with democratic ethics, who are always willing to accept the rules of democracy and the requirements of social peace, political stability, and national unity; in other words, Beninese men and women who are loyal and devoted servants of the republic, motivated by a constant concern for the highest interests of the nation. Our country needs men and women who deep down in their hearts nurture fundamental republican values and are able to translate them into their daily social practices, so a citizen in a position of responsibility would not behave as a downright sycophant, a professional follower, and an unrepentant saboteur of the national economy.

The Beninese political activist, the citizen worthy of the name, must in his/her practice and performance in the service of the nation display an inner moral fortitude, which must never be experienced or felt as a burden. Serving the state should be an honor for every person, in other words, a duty, a privilege, and a prestigious undertaking.

Therefore, for our democracy to strengthen, and for the development vision set forth by the National Studies for Long-Term Perspectives to be realized by 2025, every citizen must question and assess him/herself through a courageous and responsible self-examination to strengthen his/her own determination to work toward the full implementation of the tasks necessary to realize this noble objective.

On the eve of this forty-fifth anniversary of our country's independence, let us all unite to praise the All-Powerful, the Lord of Hosts, and give Him thanks for granting our country a priceless gift: peace, this divine grace that every citizen has a sacred duty to protect and preserve.

This is why, after two five-year terms, and in strict compliance with the Constitution of December 11, 1990, it is with faith and conviction that I will hand over power following the presidential elections scheduled for March 2006. As I have already advised, this deadline is well known to all and should in no way be interrupted. God will protect us from the worst, and everything will go well if we succeed in display-

ing the maturity we have acquired since the historic Conference of Active Forces of the Nation, through the true qualities of patriotism, good citizenship, tolerance, harmony, and national unity.

I remain convinced that once again the Beninese people will be able to demonstrate to the world and to history evidence of their strong sense of responsibility and republican spirit.

I therefore urge every Beninese to share in this conviction and to work toward this achievement throughout all the phases of the electoral process, in order to ward off the demons of division.

I call on every Beninese to continue to display the patriotic feeling, civic spirit, and republican commitment of our increased sense of national duty and love for our daily work so that our dear country, Benin, can become a region of freedom, peace, and prosperity.

To attain these happy and exciting future prospects, we must now embark on a deep moral rearmament to improve our habits and undergo a personal internal change equal to the demands of history and to the legitimate expectations of our hardworking population in the cities and countryside.

I urge you never to succumb to a defeatist attitude, to abdication, to resignation, but to continue the work of nation building with a strong spirit of determination at all costs, so that current and future generations have reason to be proud of the work accomplished by their elders and forefathers.

To all Beninese men and women of all ages and from all walks of life, I would like to renew my commitment as a citizen to work together to consolidate our democratic process and the sustainable development of our beloved and shared country, the Republic of Benin.

To each and every one of you, happy forty-fifth anniversary of our national independence!

Long live the democratic republic! Long live Benin!

Thank you.

BÉNIN

Message à la Nation du Président de

la République Mathieu Kérékou,

Chef de L'Etat, Chef du Gouvernement,

à L'Occasion de la Célébration de la

Fête Nationale du 1er Aout 2005

le 31 juillet 2005

Cotonou

Demain, lundi 1er Août 2005, toutes les Béninoises et tous les Béninois, de l'intérieur comme de l'extérieur, revivront pour la 45ème fois, dans un esprit d'unité et de ferveur patriotiques intenses, le souvenir vivifiant et exaltant du sentiment collectif de légitime fierté et d'espérance forte qu'ont éprouvé les acteurs et témoins de l'évènement historique majeur que fut l'accession de notre pays à l'indépendance et à la souveraineté internationale, le 1er Août 1960.

Moment privilégié pour prendre la mesure exacte du chemin parcouru, depuis que notre cher pays, le Bénin, a émergé dans le concert des Etats libres et souverains, fermement résolu à assumer la plénitude de son grand destin national, dans le processus global d'édification d'un monde plus juste et plus humain, plus fraternel et plus pacifique.

Moment légitime pour honorer la mémoire impérissable de nos dignes et valeureux aînés qui ont versé leur sang, dans des luttes âpres et multiformes pour la sauvegarde de notre identité, et la pleine réalisation des aspirations profondes du peuple béninois à la liberté, à la justice et au progrès social.

En nous adressant à vous, Béninoises et Béninois, à la veille de cette commémoration, nous voudrions vous convier à un survol rétrospectif de ces quarante cinq (45) années

d'indépendance, quarante cinq (45) années d'un parcours jalonné de faits marquants qui ont induit de profondes mutations qualitatives dans les domaines politique, économique, social et culturel, et imprimé à l'évolution générale de notre vie nationale sa dynamique interne et sa courbe ascendante.

Au 1er Août 1960, dans l'allégresse et la liesse populaires, nous avons fêté, chanté et dansé, au rythme de l'Aube Nouvelle, persuadés que de par notre propre génie créateur, notre ardeur au travail, notre esprit de fraternité et notre sens de la justice, nous pourrions nous débarrasser des séquelles de l'esclavage et des handicaps du legs colonial, construire une nation moderne et prospère.

Hélas, nous avons vite déchanté, car aux chaînes rompues se sont régulièrement et tragiquement substituées de nouvelles entraves, faisant alterner les victoires et les insuccès, les grandes espérances et les vives déceptions.

Ainsi, et pour résumer l'essentiel nous avons retenu:

Au plan politique, notre pays a incontestablement posé des actes décisifs qui vont dans le sens de son progrès.

Cependant, très tôt, les contradictions tribales, régionalistes ainsi que le recours facile et systématique à la violence, entretenus par les hommes politiques de diverses obédiences ont ruiné la cohésion nationale et compromis notre développement économique.

L'année 1963 marque un tournant majeur, avec la première intervention de l'Armée dans la vie politique nationale, suite à l'appel pressant des syndicats face à l'incapacité injustifiée et incompréhensible de la classe politique à assumer correctement le devoir national dont elle se prévalait. C'est ainsi que les élites militaires se découvrirent et se donnèrent une vocation politique dans le règlement des crises et la gestion des affaires publiques.

En 1972, une nouvelle incursion de l'Armée dans l'arène politique vient mettre fin au régime du Conseil Présidentiel, un système tricéphale aux mille contradictions, complètement enlisé dans un pourrissement irrémédiable, face aux

assauts répétés des syndicats, des organisations sociales et des mouvements de jeunes. Le nouvel environnement politique créé par l'avènement du Gouvernement Militaire Révolutionnaire a permis une remise en confiance des populations de nos villes et de nos campagnes, le rétablissement de l'Autorité de l'Etat, l'amorce d'une conscience patriotique plus affirmée, l'épanouissement des valeurs socioculturelles, ainsi que la consolidation des bases de l'unité nationale et du développement économique.

D'une manière générale, l'espoir d'un lendemain meilleur était permis.

Mais bien vite, la mauvaise gestion de nos sociétés d'Etat, les multiples dérives et les graves déviations intervenues dans tous les secteurs et à tous les niveaux, ont tôt fait de saper les bases de l'économie nationale et du pouvoir d'Etat, créant ainsi d'énormes difficultés au système institutionnel qui révélait au grand jour les limites du monolithisme qui le fonde.

Alors, dans l'intérêt supérieur de la nation, et obéissant à la voix intérieure de notre conscience de citoyen, nous avons conçu et mis en œuvre le processus ayant conduit à la tenue de la Conférence des Forces Vives de la Nation de février 1990.

A la surprise de ceux qui ne connaissaient de notre pays que sa triste réputation «d'enfant malade de l'Afrique», nous avons réussi, dans un puissant sursaut collectif, à vaincre la fatalité, à redresser la barque, et à ouvrir pour notre cher et beau pays des perspectives radieuses avec l'amorce, dans une ambiance nationale de consensus dynamique et constructif, du processus du Renouveau démocratique.

Après quinze (15) années d'expérience démocratique, notre pays vit en paix. Les institutions de la République fonctionnent régulièrement. Les Béninoises et Béninois jouissent des libertés fondamentales. La liberté de presse est garantie. L'environnement juridique des investissements est assaini. Les dispositions constitutionnelles favorisent l'alternance au pouvoir et la succession au sommet de l'Etat. Ces prescriptions fondamentales de notre Constitution du 11 décembre 1990 doivent

pouvoir résister à toute révision opportuniste, d'autant plus que, par delà toutes les préoccupations conjoncturelles et subjectivistes qui la motivent, elles constituent en fait la référence basique et le test d'authenticité de la nouvelle culture démocratique dont les acteurs politiques doivent désormais faire preuve.

Aujourd'hui, au Bénin, la culture du pluralisme démocratique et de tolérance politique se renforce. La stabilité de nos institutions garantit les bases du développement et les conditions d'une saine émulation socioéconomique.

Sans aucun doute, dans divers autres secteurs de la vie nationale, des résultats notables ont été enregistrés. La mise en œuvre méthodique des projets inscrits au Programme d'Action du Gouvernement a permis le renforcement des infrastructures de base, et la réalisation de plusieurs ouvrages dans les domaines socioéducatif et sanitaire.

De toute évidence, notre pays jouit aujourd'hui d'un capital de prestige et de considération dans l'arène internationale.

Nous pouvons avoir des raisons d'être fiers que le Bénin se soit illustré, et de fort belle manière, par sa participation honorable aux phases finales de la coupe d'Afrique des nations senior et junior, et de la coupe du monde junior en football.

Pourtant, nous nous devons de reconnaître en toute honnêteté et sans complaisance aucune, que beaucoup reste encore à faire, pour offrir le bien-être aux populations de nos villes et de nos campagnes. Pour y parvenir, il nous faut briser le cercle vicieux de la pauvreté et renforcer les bases d'un développement socioéconomique harmonieux et durable.

Aujourd'hui les Béninoises et les Béninois sont face à des problèmes quotidiens de survie, à l'amenuisement du pouvoir d'achat et à la cherté de la vie en raison de la conjoncture économique internationale difficile.

C'est pourquoi les taux de croissance économique enregistrés jusqu'ici, quoique supérieurs à la moyenne sous-régionale, demeurent faibles.

Comparés aux taux de croissance

démographique, ces indicateurs apparaissent insuffisants pour lutter efficacement contre la pauvreté et le sous-développement.

Malgré les louables efforts consentis par nos braves paysans, nos travailleurs des divers secteurs, nos opérateurs économiques et l'Etat, l'économie béninoise demeure fragile. Elle subit les effets des contreperformances de l'économie mondiale, marquée par la récession, la hausse vertigineuse des prix des produits pétroliers et la détérioration toujours plus accentuée des termes de l'échange.

Nous devons renverser ces tendances, en créant les conditions objectives et subjectives favorables à la relance progressive de l'économie nationale.

Dans cette voie, nous devons prioritairement concentrer nos efforts et nos actions visant à enrayer les multiples goulots d'étranglement qui compromettent les politiques de développement globales et sectorielles élaborées et mises en œuvre depuis une décennie.

Les Etudes Nationales de Perspectives à Long Terme ont défini l'objectif global qui consiste à faire du Bénin à l'horizon 2025 «un pays phare, un pays bien gouverné, uni et de paix, à économie prospère et compétitive, de rayonnement culturel et de bien-être social». Le Programme d'Action du Gouvernement (PAG) et le Document de Stratégie de Réduction de la Pauvreté au Bénin (DSRP) se sont arrimés à cet objectif global. Dans cette vision définie et partagée par l'ensemble des composantes catégorielles de la Nation, les actions prévues et programmées sont exécutées, à la mesure des financements mobilisés au plan national et avec le concours de nos partenaires au développement.

Une politique bien pensée et judicieusement mise en œuvre ne peut que conduire à l'objectif global, qui est de rendre notre économie plus compétitive et d'offrir le bien-être aux populations.

Hélas, tel n'est pas encore le cas dans notre pays.

Dans ces conditions, pour avancer avec assurance et succès dans la voie du développement durable et de la modernité, il nous faut scruter

attentivement notre environnement immédiat, identifier les facteurs de blocage, en un mot, tous les obstacles susceptibles de compromettre la pleine réalisation des objectifs de croissance et de progrès.

Comme vous le savez, nous avons coutume d'interpeller sans ménagement les intellectuels béninois et de les situer constamment sur les responsabilités particulières qui sont les leurs dans la vie sociale nationale.

En effet, nous avons toujours considéré à juste titre que le facteur principal, l'acteur déterminant de notre avancée sur le chantier du développement de notre pays, n'est autre que l'Homme.

Notre intime conviction, c'est que tout repose sur l'individu, sur l'homme, ce centre autonome de décision, ce produit exclusif et complet d'une maturation culturelle originale et complexe, cet être de volonté et d'action.

Cependant, l'homme reste et demeure le plus grand prédateur de la démocratie, de l'état de droit et du développement économique de notre pays. En effet, il ne suffit pas d'avoir des lois, il faut aussi des hommes aptes et résolus à les appliquer dans leur esprit et dans leur lettre, capables de gérer loyalement et efficacement les institutions, dans le respect des règles de la bonne gouvernance.

Il faut des hommes soucieux de faire en sorte que toutes les spécificités de la société béninoise puissent être intégrées et prises en compte dans les décisions de l'Etat.

Il faut des hommes véritablement intègres pour que l'appareil judiciaire fonctionne comme il se doit.

Il faut des cadres rompus et chevronnés, consciencieux et honnêtes pour gérer sainement nos entreprises et nos services dans le respect scrupuleux du bien commun, et la volonté de réaliser les objectifs fixés.

Hélas, tout le monde sait et déplore ouvertement que bon nombre de nos cadres et de nos responsables, à divers niveaux de l'appareil d'Etat, pour des raisons sordides et basement égoïstes, rivalisent d'ingéniosité diabolique pour faire dévier les décisions des institutions de leur

finalité et de leur objectif, mettant ainsi en péril la cohésion nationale, la paix sociale et la stabilité institutionnelle.

Chacun d'entre nous, en vertu du principe du libre arbitre généreusement instauré par le Créateur, est placé devant la série de normes qui constituent le code éthique et la référence comportementale du citoyen, autant dans sa vie privée que dans sa pratique sociale publique.

La valeur du citoyen ne tient pas seulement à son profil de compétence, à sa formation, à sa qualification professionnelle, à la considération et au respect qu'inspirent son statut social et son rang politique. Elle tient certes à ses qualités-là, mais plus encore à l'observance par le citoyen, dans sa pratique sociale quotidienne, des principes et des règles éthiques liés à la gestion de la chose publique, au respect du bien commun, à la primauté de l'intérêt général, au sacrifice de soi pour que vive, grandisse et prospère la nation toute entière.

Le mal dont souffre cruellement notre société d'aujourd'hui est foncièrement moral, le manque de foi ayant asséché les cœurs de bon nombre de nos compatriotes. Notre salut réside dans le rétablissement et la promotion des principes et des valeurs sacrées qui font la grandeur des nations modernes.

C'est du sens élevé de responsabilité de l'homme que se nourrissent la démocratie et l'état de droit, dans leur fonctionnement, leur enracinement et leur durabilité. L'Etat béninois a besoin d'hommes dépouillés des préjugés vulgaires, des idées préconçues, des passions aveugles et des extrémismes qui conduisent à l'intolérance et à la violence.

Ce dont l'Etat a besoin, c'est d'être animé, conduit et dirigé par des femmes et des hommes pénétrés de la morale démocratique, toujours disposés à se soumettre aux règles du jeu démocratique, aux impératifs de paix sociale, de stabilité politique et d'unité nationale, c'est-à-dire des citoyennes et des citoyens serviteurs fidèles et dévoués de la République, animés du souci constant de l'intérêt supérieur de la Nation. Il faut pour notre pays, des femmes et des hommes qui cultivent au plus profond d'eux-

mêmes et savent les traduire dans leur pratique sociale de tous les jours, les valeurs républicaines fondamentales et que chacun à son poste de responsabilité cesse d'être un courtisan invétéré, un griot professionnel et un saboteur impénitent de l'économie nationale.

L'acteur politique béninois, le citoyen digne de ce nom, dans sa pratique et dans ses prestations au service de la nation, doit faire preuve d'une rigueur morale intériorisée, qui ne doit jamais être vécue ou ressentie comme une pesanteur. Servir l'Etat doit être pour tout homme un point d'honneur, c'est-à-dire à la fois un devoir, un privilège et un prestige.

Ainsi donc, pour que notre démocratie se consolide, et que la vision de développement dégagée par les Etudes Nationales de Perspectives à Long Terme se réalise effectivement à l'horizon 2025, il faut que chaque citoyen, par un examen de conscience courageux et responsable, se remette en cause, s'auto-évalue, et raffermisse sa propre détermination à œuvrer à la pleine exécution des tâches concourant à la réalisation de ce noble objectif.

En cette veille du 45ème anniversaire de l'indépendance de notre pays, unissons-nous tous, pour louer le Tout-Puissant, l'Eternel des Armées et lui rendre grâce, pour avoir comblé notre pays, en le gratifiant d'un don inestimable: la paix, cette grâce divine que tout citoyen a le devoir sacré de protéger et de préserver.

C'est pourquoi, après deux (02) quinquennats, et en raison de la stricte application de la Constitution du 11 décembre 1990, c'est avec foi et conviction que nous passerons le témoin suite aux élections présidentielles de mars 2006. Cette échéance bien connue de tous et comme nous l'avions déjà annoncé, ne doit aucunement nous ébranler. Dieu nous préservera du pire, et tout se passera bien, si nous savons faire preuve de la maturité acquise depuis l'historique Conférence des Forces Vives de la Nation, à travers nos réelles qualités de patriotisme, de civisme, de tolérance, de concorde et d'unité nationale. Nous restons convaincu qu'une fois encore, le peuple béninois saura administrer à la face du monde et devant l'histoire, la preuve de son sens élevé de responsabilité et de son esprit républicain.

Nous invitons donc chaque Béninoise et chaque Béninois à partager cette conviction, et à œuvrer pour qu'il en soit ainsi à toutes les phases des opérations électorales, pour conjurer les démons de la division.

Nous en appelons au sens patriotique, à l'esprit civique et à l'engagement républicain de toutes les Béninoises et de tous les Béninois, pour continuer par notre sens accru du devoir national et par notre travail quotidien, à faire de notre cher pays, le Bénin, un espace de liberté, de paix et de prospérité.

Dans cette heureuse et exaltante perspective, nous devons procéder aujourd'hui même à un profond réarmement moral, pour assainir nos mœurs et opérer notre propre mutation interne, pour nous mettre à la hauteur des exigences du cours de l'histoire, et des légitimes attentes de nos laborieuses populations des villes et campagnes.

Nous vous exhortons à ne jamais succomber au défaitisme, à la démission, à la résignation, et à poursuivre dans un esprit de détermination raffermie, l'œuvre de construction nationale, quoi qu'il en coûte, afin que les générations présentes et futures aient des raisons d'être fières du travail accompli par leurs aînés et leurs aïeux.

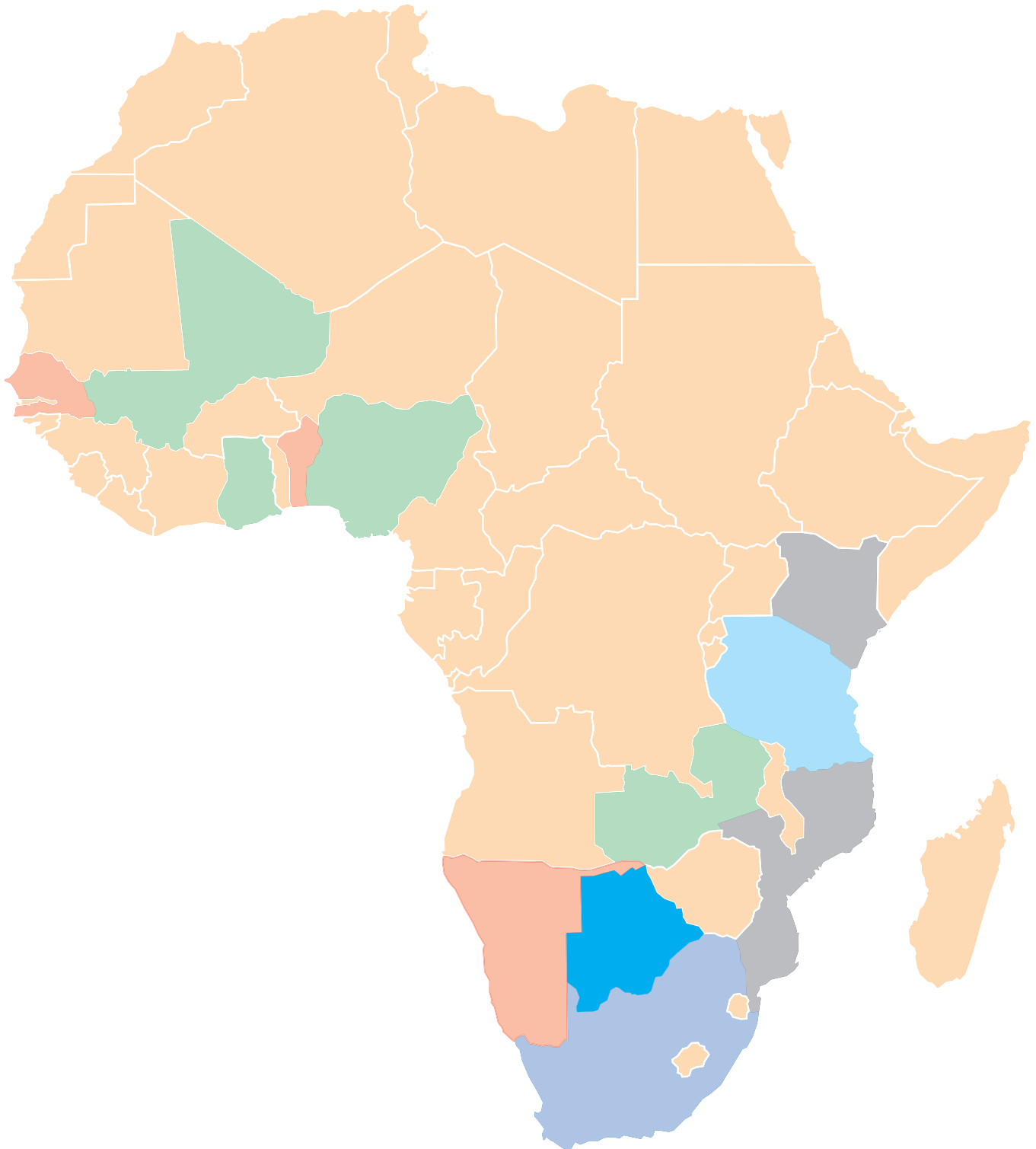
A vous tous, Béninoises et Béninois, de tous âges et de toutes conditions, renouvelons notre engagement citoyen d'œuvrer ensemble à la consolidation de notre processus démocratique et au développement durable de notre chère et commune patrie, la République du Bénin.

A chacun et à tous Bonne fête du 45ème anniversaire de notre indépendance nationale!

Vive le Renouveau Démocratique! Vive le Bénin!

Je vous remercie.

BOTSWANA



BOTSWANA



**State of the Nation Address,
Renewal through Mutual
Responsibility, by His Excellency
Festus G. Mogae, President of the
Republic of Botswana, to the Second
Session of the Ninth Parliament
7 November 2005
Gaborone**

INTRODUCTION

As always, it is an honour for me to enter this hall of the people in order to address the nation. At this, the opening of the second session of our Ninth Parliament, it is once more my task to speak about the challenges our country faces and what my government proposes we should do about them.

In speaking of 'we' I do not here refer to members of my government alone. I do not even confine my words to the Honourable Members sitting on both sides of the aisle before me.

True, as the duly elected representatives of the people and thus custodians of their collective aspirations, it is for members of this House to take the lead, be it in cabinet, on the backbench, or among the loyal opposition. But in a democracy such as ours, 'we' in the end must refer to 'we the people', that is, all of us. By casting their ballots it is they who give us our mandate.

The truth of this was once again reflected in the recent by-election in the Gaborone West North constituency, which was necessitated by the untimely death of our late colleague and brother Paul Rantao. I believe all of us here were privileged to have known 'Ostrich' for his good humour, as well as his many and varied public contributions. I am sure, therefore, that I speak for this entire House when I say that his presence shall be deeply missed.

The people of Gaborone West North have since chosen a new representative. And so today I am also pleased to acknowledge the presence amongst us for the first time of [the] Honourable Otsweletse Moupo. This is not because I expect

him necessarily to see the good sense in everything I am about to say. I am sure we shall find some grounds to differ [on] now and again.

Our nation's four decades of uninterrupted multiparty parliamentary democracy should, however, remind us all that we are part of something that transcends individual political careers and rival manifestos. As I have said on previous occasions, the progress that our country has undeniably achieved since our first general election, back in March 1965, would not have been possible in the absence of a collective vision among Batswana [the Botswana people] about how they wished to see their country progress.

Thus it is that even as we have debated our differences over the course of nine general elections and the by-elections in between, so too have we all along continued to travel together to our mutual destiny, meeting and overcoming challenges along the way. And so I say once more that that which divides us as Batswana should (I am confident shall) remain less than that which binds us together. In this way, our differences in political perspective will continue to be a reflection of our strength in diversity.

Let us here rededicate ourselves, as leaders, to the nurturing and maintenance of a moral and tolerant society. We, in particular, ought to be explicit in recognizing that the proponents of various political and social views in our country are neither 'bootlickers' nor 'sycophants' nor indeed any of the other epithets that have of late all too frequently found their way into the polemics and rhetoric of a few, mostly in the opinion press.

Our supporters, that is, those who speak both for and against my administration, are individuals who are exercising their responsibility as citizens to stand up for what they believe is best for their country. As such, they are all patriots. While we can agree to disagree, let us also agree that in our mature democracy all voices shall continue to be respected even as they are challenged and/or opposed. Mmualabe o bua la gagwe! Ga a tshwanela gore a rogewe; Gape go itse matlhapa gase yone thutego.

KEY CHALLENGES

Like any community, we Batswana continue to face common challenges. Living as we do in an era of globalization, it is inevitable that these obstacles are both internal and external in their origin. Likewise, our efforts to overcome them will require external outreach as well as internal initiative.

Here, from the beginning, let me emphasize that while government is prepared to play a leading role, meeting the challenges we face will require combined efforts and collective sacrifice. In the end, we the people need to ensure that all segments of society—employers and employees, civil society and the public service, producers and consumers—play their part.

It should come as no surprise to the members of this House when I say that the principal economic and social challenges that confront us are not new. That is why overcoming them has been and remains the focus of our National Development Plan (NDP 9).

At the beginning of the current planning process, that is in 2003, we specifically identified as a key priority the need to realize greater economic diversification in order to create additional employment opportunities and further reduce poverty through sustainable growth. We also recognized that such [an] outcome would require continued macroeconomic stability and financial discipline, as well as public-sector and policy reforms.

Our economy has, contrary to the panic-pushing of some, been growing at a respectable average rate of 4.7 percent per annum during the first half of NDP 9. This is, however, below our own original target of 5.5 percent per annum. To a great extent the shortfall is due to lower than desired growth in the nonmining sector.

Of course, our aggregate growth figure does not reflect the reality of uneven progress. We must also be concerned about the imbalances that exist in the expansion of the different subsectors of our economy.

The constraints to more balanced growth can in part be attributed to such immediate factors as,

until recently, the real exchange-rate appreciation of the pula, persistent drought, and the inflationary pressure of unfavourable international conditions, such as the skyrocketing cost of fuel. As a result, the nonmining sectors are now expected to record a combined annual growth of 5.4 percent, rather than the 7.7 percent that was originally targeted.

Underlying all our economic challenges is the stubborn fact that our economy continues to be heavily dependent on diamond mining, which unless and until significant new production comes on stream, has come close to achieving optimal production levels.

As we all know, by their very nature our diamond mines are capital rather than labour intensive. While this has contributed to their status as being among the world's most profitable and productive operations, it also means that the need to provide greater employment opportunities elsewhere remains a challenge.

Given this reality, we have no choice but to continue in our efforts to promote greater diversification by attracting additional domestic as well as foreign investment in the promotion of productive alternatives. In this we should not be confounded by the fact that our efforts hitherto have yielded more modest results than we might have hoped for.

Given our geography as a landlocked and semi-arid country with high transport costs; given our small internal market and high utility costs; given the undoubted advantages of our regional and international competitors; and, perhaps above all, given the unequal, as well as highly competitive, nature of global trade and investment flows, we have known all along that the path to greater economic diversification would be difficult.

It has been due to this awareness that there have been no quick fixes to our dependency, that we tasked institutions such as the Botswana Development Corporation, Botswana Export Development and Investment Authority (BEDIA), and the National Employment, Manpower, and Incomes Council (NEMIC) to drive our efforts to attract investment.

Significant reforms to streamline the issuance of work and residence permits are now in the pipeline for the coming year. These include the merging of the two permits into one and the continued expansion of regional-screening capacity. The latter has already resulted in a significant reduction in the backlog of applications, from over ten thousand in July of this year [2005] to less than one thousand now. It is our goal by the end of the year to remove the backlog entirely and with it the need to issue waivers.

As a further reform, the burden of permit renewal will shift in 2006 from the permit holder to the immigration department. In the process, the need for people already granted residence to wait in lines to seek renewals and/or three-month waiver extensions will be eliminated.

UNEMPLOYMENT

When it comes to the challenge of unemployment, we are especially mindful of the particular distress that the current scarcity of vocational opportunities causes our first-time job seekers. It is a sad irony that today's youth, who are undoubtedly the best-educated and [best-]trained generation our country has yet produced, should be frustrated in turning their potential into gainful employment.

For the welfare of our sons and daughters and for the greater good of our country, we must find the means to ensure that their talent is not squandered in idleness. Addressing this problem will thus be a major priority for the remainder of NDP 9. Some of the immediate policy measures I propose to help alleviate youth unemployment are as follows:

- increase the number of junior secondary-school leavers who continue to senior secondary and vocational training to ensure that the progression rate to the senior secondary schools or vocational-training centres rises to 83 percent by 2009;
- upgrade the quality of brigades [community vocational schools];
- expand the Crash Training Programme to enhance skill acquisition;

- substantially augment the resources available to the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs for the Youth Promotion Programme;
- create a window under CEDA [Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency] to provide agricultural loans for graduates of agricultural-training institutions;
- improve the coordination of youth programmes among the various institutions receiving government support; and
- push forward with a review of government-hiring criteria so as to remove unnecessary barriers, such as overly stringent experience criteria, that undermine our ability to recruit otherwise qualified and capable Batswana into the public service.

We here recognize that the above steps will not by themselves end youth unemployment. This is a burden that is proving intractable, even in some of the world's most advanced economies. And so we must continue to seek long-term solutions, which inevitably bring us back to the need for diversification.

SOCIAL CHALLENGES

In addition to economic concerns, our country has [to] increasingly confront stark social challenges that threaten to negate the harmony that has for so long been a hallmark of our community. The escalation of violent crimes such as murder, rape, and armed robbery is disturbing. To counter this blight, we shall continue to invest in the upgrading of our police service so that it is equipped and trained to meet the evolving demands of domestic and regional law enforcement.

But we also recognize that better policing in itself is not the entire answer. We also need to find ways of reinvigorating our sense of community. It will require mutual responsibility, for instance, for us to begin to curb the terrible phenomenon of so-called passion killings. While it is easy to blame the police or others for alleged lapses after one of these heinous crimes has occurred, if we are true to ourselves, we should

acknowledge that it is not possible for those tasked with upholding our security to keep a twenty-four-hour watch on each and every potential culprit. As a preventive measure they shall, however, investigate threats to kill and, where appropriate, prosecute [the] offenders. Mutual responsibility dictates that none of us should be indifferent to circumstances that place others at risk.

In my own view, it is also important that we stop romanticizing these wanton acts of murder. In this respect, the continued mislabelling of them as passion killings only serves to mystify their nature further. Clearly these terrible acts are devoid of any passionate quality. They are rather outpourings of hatred and rage, which may have their roots in untreated depression and/or misdirected feelings of personal inadequacy.

For now there is no consensus on causal factors behind what has become an upsurge of misogynist violence in our society. Of late a number of well-meaning individuals have approached me with their own proposals to address this matter more deeply, which are being urgently considered.

In the meantime, we shall continue to condemn these crimes and in the process take exception to those instances in which our media appear to be unduly fascinated by the perpetrator, rather than sympathetic [to] his victim. We should also acknowledge that we need to be open-minded in seeking better answers as to what motivates this evil in order to bring it to an end.

Looking more broadly at the many emerging social challenges we face, from rape and domestic violence to incidents of antisocial behaviour, as well as the carnage on our roads and the continued spread of HIV, it is clear that alcohol is an aggravating factor. This is why my government is committed to enforcing regulations that will promote more responsible drinking among those who are entitled and wish to do so, while stopping those who would profit from the poisoning of our minors. The Liquor Act 2003 and its recently approved regulations thus aim to place stricter control on the supply of liquor.

DEVELOPING SOCIETY

An external economic observer recently described Botswana as a low-income country with a high-income lifestyle. To the extent that this is true, it should remind us of the constant need to live within our means. Let us be wise enough to humbly recognize that—notwithstanding the assertions of some, including exaggerated international estimates of our per-capita wealth based on purchasing-power parity criteria—we are not a ‘rich country’. By any reasonable measure of our actual income and assets—human and material, as well as financial—we are still very much a developing society, located within a marginalized continent.

TEAMWORK

Given the immensity of the challenges we face as Batswana, we also need to demonstrate, both to ourselves and [to] the world, that we can compete together as a team. The time has come for us once and for all to put aside the so-called PHD (Pull Him/Her Down) syndrome, which debilitates indigenous creativity and entrepreneurship. If we look around the world, it is clear that the most successful societies have always been those whose citizens compete as a team, aiming at the goal in front of them.

If we are to be serious about realizing our goals through greater synergy, we must also turn our backs on the negativity of those who prefer to champion envy [rather] than celebrate success among us. I applaud the fact that voices are now being raised against the debilitating tendency of our more polemical press to be dismissive of any and all domestic accomplishment, as if the mere acknowledgement that the glass may be half full would undermine their own incessant insistence that the sky is falling all around. No society, no matter what the nature of the challenges it faced, has ever progressed by wallowing in negativity.

As Batswana, let us therefore empower [one] another, rather than pull [one] another down. This again will call for a greater degree of mutual responsibility and respect. In the end we should

look within ourselves for support, with the knowledge that no one else in the world owes us a living.

NINTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP 9)

In confronting our current challenges, we do have the advantage of building on past progress. The Mid-Term Review of NDP 9 will be formally presented to you in the course of this sitting.

THE PULA’S EXCHANGE RATE

One of the major constraints to more rapid growth and diversification has been an overvalued currency. In May 2005, it was thus deemed necessary to introduce a crawling-peg exchange-rate mechanism. This was to prevent the pula from being misaligned for extended periods of time, thus requiring large periodic adjustments.

In order to lay a solid foundation for the new mechanism, it was also necessary to correct the existing overvaluation and hence the 12 percent devaluation of the pula last May. This has enhanced [the] predictability and stability of the pula’s exchange rate. For example, its exchange rate with the United States dollar since the devaluation has been stable at about US\$0.18, or 5 pula 55 thebe. This happens to have been its average exchange rate for 2002 and [is] higher than that of 2001.

In any country, an overvalued currency means that the cost of locally produced goods and services, which generate local employment and income, becomes too high. If the cost of our beef or diamonds is overvalued in today’s competitive global market, if our tourist facilities become too expensive when compared with those found elsewhere, [and] if our labour costs are not competitive by international standards, all Batswana will pay the price. No economy can sustain itself without domestic production to balance its imported consumption.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND DISCIPLINE

Another issue of serious concern is the lack of financial management and discipline amongst some local financial enterprises. Cases of poor corporate governance have been reported on the part of some nonbanking institutions such as insurance companies and pension funds. In this regard a Non-Bank Regulatory Authority Bill is being drafted for submission to this honourable House during the forthcoming budget meeting.

PARTIAL COST-RECOVERY

Cost-recovery is another policy every Motswana [person] should accept so as to ensure that we do not live beyond our means. People must realize that for the various programmes provided by government to be sustained, and even improved in terms of coverage and quality, those already benefiting and who can afford [it] must be prepared to pay a small proportion of the cost. Partial cost-recovery is a form of 'Ipelegeng' [spirit of self-reliance] and should be understood as such.

Of immediate interest in this regard is the introduction of partial cost-recovery in education, [which will go into] effect from January 2006. I wish to again reassure the nation that in the implementation of this partial cost-recovery, adequate safeguards will be made to ensure that those genuinely unable to pay are not denied the services they require.

CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT

There is not, and cannot be, greater economic empowerment of citizens by their government than through the provision of education. The government of Botswana has, from day one of its existence, first subsidized [and] then, when the budgetary situation improved, provided free education. In keeping with the principle of mutual responsibility and now that budgetary constraints have once more made themselves felt, government is asking parents to make a 5 percent contribution.

How any parent with a modicum of love for his/her child can find this unacceptable eludes my apprehension. I do not know what such parents, if they exist, would have done if they lived in some other country. We have said that only parents who can afford it would be required to make the contribution, which for junior secondary schools in the coming year will amount to P25 a month. Otherwise, we shall still guarantee each child a minimum of ten years of education, with primary schooling remaining free.

Over and above education, government has over the years provided special schemes for further citizen economic empowerment. There has been the Batswana Entrepreneurs Development Unit (BEDU), the Bull-Subsidy Scheme, Services to Livestock Owners in Communal Areas (SLOCA), Arable Land Development Programme (ALDEP), Accelerated Rain-Fed Arable Land Programme (ARAP), the Small Borrowers Fund administered by NDB [National Development Bank], the Financial Assistance Policy (FAP), Small and Medium Enterprises Programme (SMME), and now Citizen Entrepreneur Development Agency (CEDA).

Our economic-empowerment efforts differ from [those] in some countries where wealth and enterprises have already been created. In Botswana, citizen empowerment necessarily entails enabling citizens to create wealth and enterprises for themselves. The schemes I have just enumerated were all either grant or subsidy schemes. Most of them were, and to some extent still are, misused and abused by Batswana. Consequently, progress has been less than dramatic.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

I established the Business and Economic Advisory Council in September. It is to advise government on a comprehensive strategy for accelerated economic diversification and sustainable growth, as well as [to] identify critical policy and other measures necessary for the success of the strategy. The membership of the council includes nationals and nonnationals from the

public and private sectors. Honourable Members will appreciate that it is necessary to infuse innovative and bold perspectives into our thinking, planning, and executing mechanisms if Botswana is to take maximum advantage of global investment, trade, and other opportunities. The council will also formulate an action plan and identify key projects that will provide initial impetus to economic diversification.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The development of trade and industry is a gradual process that involves the identification, formulation, review, and implementation of various policies and programmes, as well as the enactment of legislation and implementation of appropriate strategies. In this regard, government will continue to pursue its mandate of attracting investment flows, developing local entrepreneurship, and increasing market access for locally produced goods and services. The purpose is to achieve the growth and diversification of the economy, as well as [to] reduce poverty and unemployment.

To improve investment flows, there is a need to expeditiously remove the administrative and regulatory bottlenecks identified by the Foreign Investment Advisory Service study (FIAS) of the World Bank. My government has already started implementing the recommendations of this study and has assigned the National Employment, Manpower, and Incomes Council (NEMIC) the responsibility to coordinate the exercise and report progress thereof to cabinet on a quarterly basis. In addition, a Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) strategy is to be completed by the end of this financial year.

In August this year, this honourable House passed the Competition Policy. The main objective of this policy is to prevent and redress any anticompetitive practices and conduct by firms; encourage competition and the efficient use of resources; promote investments; [and] broaden choices and stabilize prices, thus leading to an overall positive effect on the economy. As a follow-up to this policy, my government is currently

working with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to develop a competition law, which will facilitate acceptable business conduct and practices.

BUSINESS REGULATION

As you are aware, the Trade and Liquor Act has been separated into the new Trade Act 2003 and the new Liquor Act 2003, regulations for which have just been completed. The aim of the Trade Act 2003 and its regulations of 2005 is to decentralize further the issuance of trade licences to local authorities and reduce the overall time for issuance of the licences.

The microlending regulations, which have just been finalized, will specify terms and conditions of loans, thus protecting borrowers from exploitation. This should lead to reduction of indebtedness, which invariably impoverishes our people, who tend to be insensitive to the cost of borrowing.

The Industrial Development Act is being reviewed with a view to simplifying licensing procedures for manufacturing industries. It is envisaged that the issuance of industrial licences will also be decentralized to local authorities.

The Companies Act has been reviewed with a view to simplifying the registration of companies, thus removing impediments to private-sector development. Regulations for the Companies Act are being finalized.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Relations between employees and employers are something we should all be concerned about. Workers' rights and contractual agreements between the employer and the employee are protected in terms of our labour laws. All employees are entitled to humane working conditions [and] fair compensation as well as [to] safety in workplaces. Employers must get the full value of what they pay for, and employees must provide services commensurate with what they are paid. It is self-evident that employers and employees need one another. You cannot have employees without employers and vice versa.

But we have to recognize that foreign investors, and even our own domestic investors, always have the option of locating in countries that are more hospitable. When differences between employees and employers arise, laid-down dispute settlement procedures should be followed and disagreements amicably resolved.

I am, therefore, worried about recent instances of disagreement that were aired in the opinions media, with employees and employers taking turns at disparaging one another. This is unhealthy and unproductive. If Botswana is to prosper, it is important to have harmonious industrial relations [and] mutual trust and support, in addition to high levels of productivity. I am well aware that there are self-proclaimed champions of workers' rights who sometimes deliberately mislead workers and provoke industrial strife. This cannot be in the best interests of our nation, and as national leaders, we must deplore the actions of such instigators.

DROUGHT RELIEF

The absence of rain from August to October throughout the country is very worrying and presents a major challenge to our nation. The agricultural sector is particularly hard hit. The grazing situation is generally poor and rapidly deteriorating.

The Ministry of Local Government was allocated a net amount of P164 million for the implementation of the Drought Relief Labour-Based Public Works Programme. A total of 834 projects have been started countrywide, and they employed about 3,000 people, over two-thirds of whom are female. The drought-relief free-seed distribution, along with other subsidies, is now expected to benefit some 75,000 communal farmers throughout Botswana.

As a result of our interventions, I am especially pleased to report that the nutritional status of the under-five[-year-olds] continued to improve countrywide, and existing government programmes ensured that people who could not support themselves were provided with the means to sustain their lives.

I will now report on some major developments in some of the sectors of our economy.

MINERAL SECTOR

The mineral sector registered a near 7 percent growth rate in the first half of NDP 9. Total employment in the mining industry increased from 13,233 in 2002 to 14,264 in 2004.

During 2004, diamond production was 31.125 million carats, representing a record output by our mines. Other achievements in the diamond subsector include increased exploration activity, with a number of new kimberlite pipes being discovered. A feasibility study is being carried out on one of them.

At the start of NDP 9, the copper/nickel market was just recovering from a sustained period of low prices, which impacted negatively on BCL Limited's operations, necessitating injection of emergency funding into the company. This recovery has continued to date, and consequently BCL's financial performance has improved.

The Tati Nickel Mining Company at Phoenix continues to operate satisfactorily. The company has successfully piloted the Activox technology, which eliminates the need for smelting. With this technology, the production of both nickel and copper metal can be done on-site. Commercial development of this technology would contribute towards our economic diversification efforts and increase value addition within Botswana.

A new gold mine, Mupane, was commissioned at the end of 2004. Also African Copper, a company that has been listed on both the Botswana and London Stock Exchanges, is about to complete a feasibility study on a copper mine near Dukwi. Its prospects look good.

Other developments in the mineral sector include the completion of a coal beneficiation study. As a result of its findings, Morupule Colliery plans to construct a plant with an estimated capacity of thirty thousand tonnes per month. This will in turn increase our domestic power-generation capacity.

ENERGY

Currently, we import more than 70 percent of our electricity from the Southern African Power Pool, and it is projected that around 2007–2010, surplus generation capacity in the region will run out. To address this problem, the Botswana Power Corporation has completed a generation-expansion study for Morupule Power Station. Government will also continue proactively to promote the possibility of establishing an export power station to take advantage of the region's expected power shortage.

A government-funded coal-bed, methane-gas study has also now been completed, and its results indicate that the coal beds of Botswana contain an estimated *in situ* gas of sixty trillion cubic feet, with prospects for commercial viability for 15 to 20 percent of the deposits. A Botswana-based company is currently investigating the possibilities of exploiting coal-bed methane in the area of Kodibeleng, near Shoshong. The resulting gas production could be used for cooking and heating as well as [for an] alternative power-generation source.

Fifteen villages were electrified during 2003–2004, increasing national access from 30 percent to 37 percent. But further progress during NDP 9 is jeopardized due to budgetary constraints. Government will thus explore alternative financing.

In order to continue to protect our environment and also to comply with the decision taken within SADC [Southern African Development Community], as well as to follow international best practice, leaded petrol will be phased out at the end of 2005. Burning leaded petrol emits microscopic particles of lead into the atmosphere, which have been found to be harmful to human beings. To mitigate the costs of fitting catalytic converters in older vehicles estimated at some 13 percent of the total vehicle population, government and the oil industry decided to replace leaded petrol with lead replacement petrol for an interim period of ten years before full transition to unleaded petrol.

WATER

The lack of adequate rainfall, particularly in the southern part of the country, and the resultant drastic drop in levels in the Gaborone Dam have led to restrictions, which have had a positive impact on consumption. The existing North-South Carrier pipeline has been [meeting] and will continue to meet most of the demands of Gaborone and surrounding areas. I am pleased to report to this House that it has of late been pumping 77 million litres of water per day to Gaborone, which is modestly above our original target of 75 million litres.

As part of the wastewater-reuse strategy, the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) has successfully constructed a wetland system in Gaborone. I appeal to Botswana to conserve and harvest water whenever opportunities present themselves. Equally, in developing infrastructure and constructing buildings, we should all use water-saving technologies.

Construction of Ntimbale Dam in the North East District is expected to be completed by March 2006. Preparations for the construction of the Dikgatlong Dam are at an advanced stage. This project will take four years to complete. The detailed design for the Thune Dam will be completed this month. The groundwater-development projects in Kang-Phuduhudu, Matsheng, Boteti, and Kanye areas are all scheduled for completion during the 2005–2006 financial year. Sanitation projects in Serowe, Ghanzi, Mahalapye, Palapye, and Tonota are at an advanced stage of implementation. The National Water Master Plan review project will be completed in March 2006.

ROADS

Government will continue to implement the road-infrastructure projects included in NDP 9. But here again we do face budgetary constraints. As a result, some of the completed design projects [that] are ready for tendering have had to be deferred. This has forced us to reprioritize the projects for implementation by giving first priority

to reconstruction or rehabilitation of the existing roads, followed by those projects that have been previously deferred. In addition, under the bridges programme, a total of nine bridges are being designed, while the securing of the funding to construct the Kazungula Bridge continues to be pursued.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Another key area for infrastructure investment during the remainder of NDP 9 will be in the field of information and communications technologies. The need to create more sustainable job opportunities will require that we continue to give priority to the upgrading of our national telecommunications network to provide high-capacity international connectivity. We shall also continue the rollout of modern telecommunications, including Internet connectivity, in rural areas through our Nteletsa programme.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Government shall continue to ensure that opportunities for tertiary education are increased through the expansion of our existing University of Botswana and the building of the second University of Science and Technology. Start-up funds for the latter have already been approved, and the initial recruitment of staff for project coordination is now ongoing. A bill for the university's establishment will, furthermore, be placed before this session of Parliament.

Government has also decided to place qualifying students into local private tertiary institutions that shall meet the set criteria for registration and accreditation with the Botswana Training Authority (BOTA) and the Tertiary Education Council (TEC).

PUBLIC-SERVICE DELIVERY

As regards public-sector reforms, the Performance Management System (PMS) continues to be a driver of change and performance

improvement. I have indicated on a number of occasions that the PMS in particular has facilitated the introduction and institutionalization of useful tools to enhance performance planning and delivery in the public service. Such tools include strategic planning, annual performance planning, budgets that are related to the plans, and performance reviews, especially at permanent-secretaries level.

I am pleased to report that there has been a measurable improvement in the service delivery of some ministries as a result of their embrace of the PMS process. The registration of companies now takes eleven days on average, while the issuance of title deeds in the urban centres [takes] six days. While I am concerned about continued instances of late payment on the part of central government to suppliers, I am pleased to note that most departments have achieved a fourteen-day turnaround.

But notwithstanding the examples of improvement I have cited, I am well aware that government has still not arrived at the level of service delivery to which we aspire. We are particularly concerned about the continued project delays and associated cost escalations, which also result in delays in paying for goods and services provided to government.

I shall, therefore, expect ministries in the coming year to continue to find ways of improving their performance. Besides internally generated reforms, they will be expected to begin partnering more with the private sector for the delivery of goods and services, more especially in the maintenance of public infrastructure, which in some areas has been badly neglected.

In recent months, air transportation has in particular experienced serious delivery problems, which have [worried] and continue to worry not only my government, but more important, the much-needed tourism industry. In view of this, my government has made an undertaking that these and other performance areas will be the main focus for improvement. This explains why the installation of the PMS at the local-government level remains our priority, because this is where the majority of government products and services are delivered.

It should be noted that productivity enhancement is of vital importance if this country [is] to remain viable and competitive. Whereas the government has a role in setting an enabling environment in this area, the private sector also has to equally and seriously address service-delivery issues and productivity in general. The whole nation should join in this collective effort if we are to turn around the fortunes of the country and grow the economy.

SOCIAL SAFETY NET

Our vision calls for us to remain compassionate and caring, as well as just. To maintain these values, we must continue to integrate into the mainstream of our society those sections of the population that are marginalized by circumstance, such as the destitute and people living with disabilities.

HIV/AIDS

I believe that we have reached a crossroads in which there is genuine opportunity to begin to move towards significant and sustainable reduction in new HIV infections. But people will first have to embrace this prospect in their own lives.

We are already at a stage where most of us are aware of both the consequences of the virus and the A,B,C's of preventing its spread. It is by now well known that we have also put in place both routine and voluntary testing to encourage and facilitate the goal of having all Batswana know their HIV status. This remains a prerequisite for halting its spread. We therefore have both the knowledge and capacity to overcome the scourge. But do we also possess the necessary will? One fact that should also be obvious, but perhaps is not as yet to everyone, is that there is still no known cure for AIDS. We have successfully rolled out antiretroviral therapy, exceeding our WHO [World Health Organization] target of fifty thousand [persons] by December 2005. This is having a positive effect on their well-being. But it must be recognized that such people are still infected and thus can still infect others.

Perhaps one of the greatest difficulties we face in confronting the virus is the fact that its defeat depends on us as individuals. Government cannot defeat the virus. Neither can civil-society organizations nor our friends in the international community. In the end we all must assume personal responsibility. Each of us must decide whether we are going to be part of the problem or its solution.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

At the beginning of my address I spoke of the need for those of us in this House to exercise our leadership in promoting a political culture that is respectful of diverse opinion. The need to maintain and enhance our nation's traditional commitment to tolerance of [one] another at both the individual and group levels should encompass all aspects of our society. This will require compromise. During the last session, this House overwhelmingly passed the Constitutional Amendment Bill. In so doing, many of you recognized that the legislation could not be all things to all people. It was, rather, a step forward, in that it will ensure that the reconstituted Ntlo ya Dikgosi will be more inclusive. Let us therefore continue to work together to make sure that this reform is implemented in a positive spirit.

INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL AND COOPERATION

While recommitting ourselves to a greater sense of unity in diversity as citizens of this wonderful country of ours, let us also strive to avoid utterances or behaviours that suggest hostility to outsiders. In an era of globalization, xenophobia, like internally directed negativism, is ultimately self-destructive to the perpetrator. Both at home and abroad, our modest nation of 1.7 million should remain friendly, [well] disposed to all who are well disposed to us.

As a small landlocked and peace-loving country, it will always be in our interest to work for enhanced regional and international cooperation. Last August we hosted the twenty-fifth anniver-

sary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). At that gathering, I, as the newly elected chairperson, promised to devote my energies to the implementation of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan.

As part of the ministerial follow-up mechanism of the African Union, we are further seeking to advance our common position on the reform of the United Nations Security Council.

Botswana attaches great importance to her bilateral relations with her immediate neighbours, which over the past year have been enhanced through exchanges of visits and the signing of various cooperation agreements. I further wish to here acknowledge the generous assistance Botswana has received from the international community, which has contributed to our development endeavours.

ACHIEVERS

Before concluding, let me also seize this opportunity to acknowledge once more that we have amongst our citizens, young and old, many achievers in the field of sports and entertainment, as well as in business, government, and civil society, who are showing all of us our positive potential.

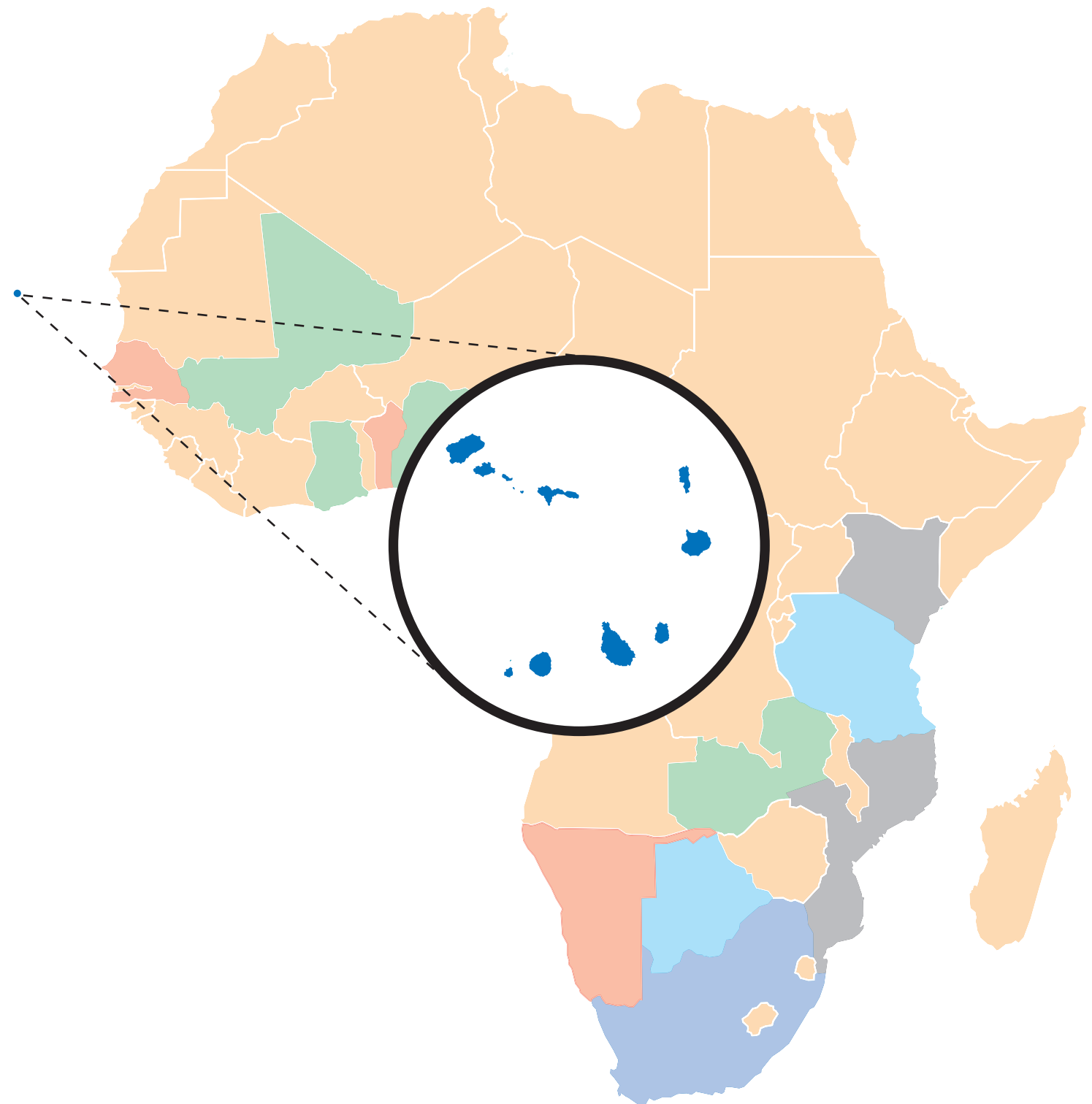
Here I wish especially to acknowledge our youth. At the beginning of this address I emphasized the burden of youth unemployment because my government recognizes that, alongside the scourge of HIV/AIDS and drought, it represents a primary challenge.

But let us also appreciate that overcoming this challenge is also our greatest opportunity. This is apparent in the success many of our youth are already enjoying. Through their talent, discipline, and teamwork, they give us confidence that we can all become part of a nation of winners.

CONCLUSION

Finally, as we face the challenges ahead, let us—whatever the nature of our personal faith in a higher authority—also seek the blessings and guidance of the Lord in all of our endeavours. With these words, let me conclude by saying thank you and God bless!

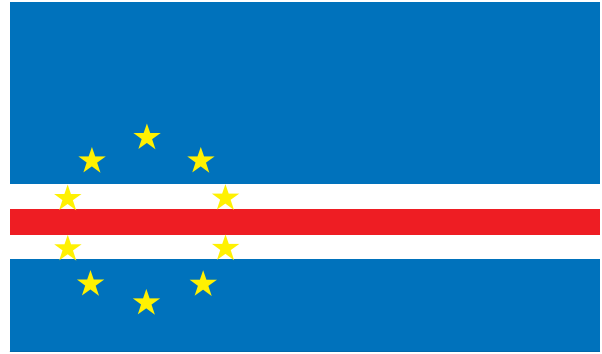
CAPE VERDE



CAPE VERDE



**Speech by His Excellency Pedro
Verona Rodrigues Pires, President
of the Republic of Cape Verde, to
a Special Session of the National
Assembly, in Commemoration of
the Thirtieth Anniversary of
National Independence
July 5, 2005
Praia**



It is with profound emotion and joy that I send my warmest greetings to all Cape Verdeans, men and women, those living in these “fortunate islands” and those in all four corners of the world, who comprise this great global nation. To all of you, happy Fifth of July and happy thirtieth anniversary!

In fact, today we are commemorating a date of great historical meaning in the lives of all members of the entire Cape Verdean nation. Together we have achieved our goals of July 5, 1975, and together we also commemorate the Fifth of July 2005. Today’s date represents thirty years of existence as a free and sovereign country. This may not seem a long time in historic terms, but it is of the utmost relevance to the lives of those who have been experiencing our socioeconomic growth and community improvements.

As we take a retrospective glance back at our past and see the path we have taken to where we are today, we should be proud of having beaten the odds.

The number of obstacles we have triumphed over gives greater meaning to our achievements, thus strengthening our nation’s self-esteem and raising its level of confidence in dealing with future challenges. I believe that our achievements were possible only because, from the outset, the entire Cape Verdean nation strove with determination and persistence, guided by a humble but clear vision of raising standards of social well-being and development.

In 1975, the situation we inherited was daunting. Thirty years later, we Cape Verdeans should congratulate ourselves for having been able to turn things around and to improve the conditions

in Cape Verde, thanks to our efforts, dedication, commitment, and, I should say, sacrifice.

As the highest magistrate in the country, I believe that it is my duty, here and now, to pay deserved homage to all Cape Verdeans, men and women, within this country and abroad, for their continued contribution to the development of our beloved country. Their contributions are a great demonstration of patriotic spirit.

In fact, today Cape Verde appears rejuvenated, perhaps because we were able to free ourselves from the many ghosts that had been haunting our existence, the most disturbing of them being the sluggishness and lack of perspective the “country/colony” was submerged in, unable to draft its own destiny.

Even though commemorative dates call for highlighting major accomplishments, allow me to skip that part, though not without acknowledging the relevance of all our achievements on the national level in the fields of health, education, economy, culture, and many others.

I understand that it is never an overstatement to mention accomplishments. However, I believe that the present moment calls for a brainstorm of a teleological kind so that we may better meet future challenges. I propose that we look into our future together.

In my opinion, one of the greatest challenges the country has faced, and still faces, is instilling in ourselves the belief that we can win the difficult battle against underdevelopment. Led by a common goal, the Cape Verdean nation has come together with boldness and determination and set out to achieve its goals, some of which reiterate the ideals of our independence, that is, to build a more just and free society and a modernized and more unified country as well.

The fact that Cape Verde has recently been included among countries of medium income constitutes both the evidence and the culmination of all our efforts so far. If on one hand this progress is stimulating and comforting, on the other hand, it certainly brings with it greater challenges and increased responsibilities. In fact, we have arrived at a level where the competition is greater, although the opportunities are greater as well.

Our aspirations for progress and advancement require that we be prepared to succeed, because we have a moral obligation to leave a legacy of prosperity to coming generations. I believe, however, that in order to accomplish this, we need to share a common vision of our future by making the priority of the nation the priority of each citizen and not allowing this vision to be limited by short-term considerations. This means that ideally, in the medium- to long-term period, we should find ways to interlink all our national programs and projects.

I do believe that Cape Verde is at a promising and challenging turning point in its development as a nation. That is, new and attractive opportunities have surfaced, people are able to pursue their goals and dreams, and the challenges and risks are enormous but can be overcome. I foresee that yet another major challenge in the coming year will be preparing Cape Verdean society to adapt, without major upheavals, to the changes that result from development.

In order to improve the attractiveness and competitiveness of this country, we must successfully complete all projects now under way in various fields. Thus, it is extremely important to maintain and secure the conditions that foster development, such as peace, political stability, and national and social cohesion. We must pay special attention to the completion of projects and the improvement of the justice system, particularly of public justice and safety, and we must improve the efficiency of public administration as well.

There are other challenges of a civic and ethical nature. We must address both negligence in the workplace and indifference to public safety. It is wrong and unrealistic to think that wealth can be created without arduous work and savings. I urge that we share the practice of achieving goals and that we learn to use and preserve public resources. It is equally important that the young develop a taste for entrepreneurial initiatives and risk-taking rather than hoping for career opportunities that may never happen.

Globalization, on the other hand, confronts us with issues that we cannot avoid. It places us on the same level as other international players, and

we are expected to perform. We will not succeed if we do not have individuals with the required level of education and spirit of innovation.

The quality of our human resources will determine our future successes. We will advance if we bet on quality and rigor as rules of work performance. In order to achieve greater progress, which we are legitimately entitled to, we have to overcome the temptation of wanting “everything now” and focus on medium- to long-term projects and goals. These require both more time before gains can be reaped and greater determination on our part to succeed.

It is obvious that we cannot import social well-being: it has to be created within this country. It is therefore important to carry out public policies that promote social dialog and the establishment of an entrepreneurial organization with an active role in society and in the economy as well.

Equally important, in terms of public service, is the need to combat drug and alcohol addiction.

Our future can only be crafted by all of us together. Thus, we are all called to do something. It is urgent that we make a collective commitment in order to achieve the desired level of success. Under such circumstances, I believe that there needs to be a national understanding of our options and strategic plans, so that whenever there is a change of government, we do not fall into the “stop, look around, and then go” frame of mind, which is just a waste of time and resources. Development calls for taking precautions and for facing toward the future, for shared interests rather than selfish individualism, and for the promotion of synergy rather than of fierce competition.

In the international arena, very turbulent days lie ahead. The coming international situation calls for world governance to be based on a new world agreement with a more democratic and balanced distribution of responsibilities to meet the demands of the current geopolitical framework of international society. This should be a just system based on international rights and democratic cooperation among countries in order to help solve the complex problems confronting the human race.

I also believe that a safer world needs small- and medium-sized states to be strong, stable, active players because they may help bring peace and stability to certain areas. In this regard, all countries should try to stop attacks that jeopardize stability and safety. Cape Verde has fully embraced this view of defending international safety.

The recent debt relief granted to eighteen of the least developed countries raises our hopes of finding new initiatives to finally resolve Africa’s external-debt problem. This would be an additional positive contribution to the emerging economic growth of sub-Saharan Africa. However, it could in itself be a guarantee of success for any policy designed to eradicate poverty. In fact, in order to end poverty, there is a need for strategic policies, for the increased allocation of resources, and for the promotion of partnerships. Only then will it be possible to offer to the men and women of the world, and particularly to those in desperate need, the chance of benefiting from globalization.

Finally, I have the pleasure of reiterating my thanks to President Fradique de Menezes for doing me the honor of being here and taking part in the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of our independence. I salute and thank my friends the prime minister of the Republic of Senegal, our closest neighbor, and the representative of the president of the Republic of Mauritania. I am equally honored to thank the presidents of the parliaments of Mozambique and Timor, the vice president of the Angolan parliament, and the representatives of the parliaments of Brazil and São Tomé and Príncipe. I salute and thank all of you for taking part in the celebrations of such a historic date.

I also would like to salute and thank the friendly presence of the president of the government of the Canary Islands, Mr. Adan Martin Menis, whose attendance today is evidence of our close relationship with that country.

I could not leave without expressing my joy at having among us, on such an important date, the director of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, Mr. Paul Applegarth.

To all of you, ladies and gentlemen, who joined us in this very important moment of celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of our independence, I repeat my thanks.

To all Cape Verdeans, men and women, I renew my wishes for a happy thirtieth anniversary.

CABO VERDE

Discurso Proferido Por Sua Excelência

O Presidente Da República,

Comandante Pedro Verona Rodrigues

Pires, Na Sessão Solene Da

Assembleia Nacional Comemorativa

Do XXX Aniversário Da

Independência Nacional

5 de Julho de 2005

Praia

É com emoção e sentimento de júbilo que saúdo, calorosamente, todas as cabo-verdianas e todos os cabo-verdianos, tanto os residentes nestas “ilhas afortunadas” como os das várias comunidades espalhadas pelos quatro cantos do globo, que juntos constituem esta grande Nação Global. A todos, Feliz 5 de Julho e Feliz Trigésimo Aniversário!

Com efeito, comemoramos hoje uma data carregada de história e de maior significado na vida de toda a Nação Cabo-Verdiana. Construímos juntos o 5 de Julho de 1975; celebramos também juntos o 5 de Julho de 2005. São trinta anos de vida e existência comum, enquanto país livre e soberano, o que, embora, seja pouco no relógio do tempo histórico, é muito significativo na vida de quem vem testemunhando o seu crescimento socioeconómico e amadurecimento cívico.

Relançando um breve olhar retrospectivo sobre a caminhada que efectuamos, o patamar onde, agora, nos encontramos só nos deve orgulhar, pelo percurso feito e pelos inúmeros obstáculos que, entretanto, conseguimos transpor.

A enormidade dos desafios superados confere outro significado aos ganhos conseguidos, fortalecendo a auto-estima da nossa Nação,

estimulando-a a encarar os desafios do futuro com confiança acrescida. Creio que os resultados alcançados só foram possíveis porque a Nação Cabo-verdiana, no seu todo, encarou e assumiu, desde cedo, o desafio de elevar o país a um nível de desenvolvimento e de bem-estar mais elevado, com audácia, determinação e persistência, acrescidas de lucidez e humildade indispensáveis.

Com efeito, face ao quadro sombrio herdado em 1975, trinta anos depois, os cabo-verdianos só podem regozijar-se com o facto de terem conseguido, com esforço, entrega, dedicação e, diria mesmo, com muito sacrifício, mudar, para muito melhor, o semblante do seu país.

Na qualidade de mais Alto Magistrado da Nação, julgo, de toda oportunidade e justiça, render, aqui e agora, uma merecida homenagem a todas as cabo-verdianas e a todos os cabo-verdianos, no país e na diáspora, pelo contributo que de forma empenhada têm prestado em prol do progresso e do engrandecimento do país de todos nós. É prova do seu elevado espírito patriótico.

Na verdade, temos hoje um Cabo Verde de fisionomia rejuvenescida e mais confiante, porventura, por se ter libertado de inúmeros fantasmas que, de forma omnipresente, ensombravam a sua existência. O mais perturbador era a situação de bloqueio e de falta de perspectivas em que o “país-colónia” se encontrava mergulhado, impedindo-o de traçar e trilhar caminho próprio.

Não obstante o facto de a comemoração de datas se mostrar propício para análises retrospectivas, celebrações de feitos e balanços, consintam-me desobrigar-me desse exercício de memória, sem pretender, todavia, deixar de penhorar o meu profundo reconhecimento pela dimensão dos inegáveis ganhos obtidos nestes trinta anos de independência, a nível institucional, da saúde, da educação, da economia, da cultura e noutras áreas da vida nacional.

Entendo não ser nunca dispensável o exercício de memória, mas, no estádio actual do desenvolvimento de Cabo Verde, julgo ser preferível uma reflexão de natureza teleológica para melhor podermos equacionar os desafios do

futuro. Proponho que nos juntemos numa interpelação ao futuro.

A meu ver, um dos grandes desafios que o nosso país teve, e continua a ter, pela frente é o de acreditar na possibilidade e capacidade de vencer a árdua batalha contra o subdesenvolvimento. Com esse fim, a Nação Cabo-Verdiana mobilizou-se, de forma comprometida, em torno desse desígnio e, com audácia e determinação, partiu à conquista da ambição acalentada, aliás, um dos objectivos que enformam o ideário da independência: ideário de reconstrução, orientado para a edificação de um país, cada vez, mais próspero, mais justo, mais livre, mais moderno, mais solidário e de bem-estar para todos.

A recente colocação de Cabo Verde na categoria de país de rendimento médio é, simultaneamente, a tradução e o corolário de todo o esforço que nesse sentido foi realizado. Se, por um lado, é verdade que este progresso é estimulador e reconfortante, por outro, não é menos certo que o novo patamar, em que agora nos situamos, interpela-nos, ao mesmo tempo, com novos desafios e contingências, assim como, com níveis de exigências superiores. Trata-se, com efeito, de um contexto mais competitivo, mas igualmente, proporcionador de melhores oportunidades.

A ambição de progresso exige que estejamos preparados para ter que vencer, porquanto, se nos impõe a obrigação moral de legar às gerações vindouras um melhor Cabo Verde. Estimo, por outro lado, que a sua consecução requer uma visão partilhada de futuro, em que as prioridades nacionais sejam objectivos de todos os cidadãos e não se circunscrevam a horizontes temporais de curta duração. Quer isto dizer que seria desejável pensar-se na intercomunicação, no tempo e no espaço, entre os diferentes programas e projectos de sociedade em presença, numa perspectiva de médio e longo prazo.

Estou em crer que Cabo Verde atravessa um momento de viragem no seu Desenvolvimento, tomado no seu sentido lato, a um tempo, promissor e desafiante: surgem oportunidades atractivas; há ambições ao alcance dos agentes

nacionais; perfilam-se desafios, mas que podem ser ganhos; e emergem riscos, mas, superáveis.

Vejo ainda como desafio principal para os próximos tempos: a preparação da sociedade cabo-verdiana para assimilar, sem sobressaltos maiores, as mudanças que terão lugar no seu próprio seio, decorrentes do processo de desenvolvimento.

O reforço da atractividade e competitividade do país requer a consolidação dos avanços conseguidos nos mais diversos domínios. Neste sentido, é indispensável assegurar a manutenção e o aprofundamento das premissas que tem constituído o substrato imprescindível ao Desenvolvimento: paz, estabilidade política, segurança e coesão social e nacional. Impõe-se ainda dedicar atenção especial à consolidação e ao aumento da eficiência das instituições do Estado de Direito, com particular ênfase para a Justiça e a Segurança Pública, sem descuidar, contudo, a melhoria da eficácia da Administração Pública.

Outros importantes desafios são de natureza cívica e ética. Impõe-se mudar as atitudes de negligência face ao trabalho e de indiferença para com o bem público. Não é sensato nem realista pensar-se que a riqueza pode ser criada sem trabalho abnegado e sem poupança interna. Urge incutir, entre nós, a cultura de resultados, da racionalidade no uso dos recursos e de protecção do bem público. De igual modo, é necessário despertar, nas camadas mais jovens, o gosto pela iniciativa empreendedora e o espírito de risco, em substituição da atitude de expectativa por oportunidades ideais que podem demorar a chegar.

A globalização, por sua vez, coloca-nos, em matéria de exigências, sem nosso consentimento, à altura dos outros actores internacionais. Exige de nós semelhante desempenho e produtividade comparável. Isto só pode ser conseguido por uma sociedade dotada de cultura e formação suficientes, com espírito de inovação e provida de capacidades profissionais adequadas.

Outrossim, é na qualidade dos recursos humanos que reside o garante dos ganhos vindouros. Aliás, ganha-se com a aposta na formação de qualidade e na cultura do rigor, como

regra de conduta. Para materializar o futuro de progresso acrescido, a que legitimamente nos aspiramos, teremos de vencer a permanente tentação por “tudo já” e apostar em projectos e objectivos de médio e longo prazo, o que requer menos pressa em consumir os lucros e maior empenho em vencer.

É claro que o bem-estar não se importa, constrói-se localmente. Para tal, é indispensável prosseguir as políticas públicas de estímulo ao diálogo social e de incentivo à formação e à afirmação de uma classe empresarial cabo-verdiana, enquanto grupo social activo e dinâmico, plenamente, inserido na sociedade e na economia de Cabo Verde.

Com idênticas preocupações, não podia deixar de insistir na necessidade de combater, com sentido de serviço público, alguns males sociais, como o consumo da droga e o alcoolismo.

O nosso futuro só pode ser obra de nós todos. Assim, todos somos convocados a ser seus obreiros solidários. Urge, por isso, um compromisso colectivo que assegure o sucesso tão desejado. Nestas circunstâncias, estimo ser necessário um amplo entendimento nacional sobre as opções de fundo e medidas de alcance estratégico, a fim de poupar o país de ter de viver, sempre que houver uma alternância de poder, situações de “parar para ver e só depois arrancar,” o que acarreta sempre uma enorme perda de tempo e desperdício inútil de recursos e de energia. Aliás, o desenvolvimento requer precaução em relação ao futuro e uma visão prospectiva deste; aconselha a solidariedade em vez do egoísmo individualista; recomenda o aproveitamento de sinergias em lugar da concorrência cega.

No plano internacional, prenunciam-se dias agitados. Este facto recomenda uma outra governança mundial, sustentada num novo pacto de entendimento mundial, por sua vez, assente numa distribuição de responsabilidades, mais democrática e mais equilibrada, na gestão da sociedade internacional, em correspondência com o actual contexto geopolítico. É um sistema equilibrado, baseado no direito internacional e na cooperação democrática, entre os diferentes

países, que melhor pode contribuir para a resolução dos problemas complexos com que se confronta a Humanidade.

Estou em crer que um mundo mais seguro precisa, também, que os Estados pequenos e médios sejam estáveis, sólidos e intervenientes, pois, podem contribuir para gerar e consolidar espaços de paz e de estabilidade. Neste quadro, cabe a todos os Estados o dever de contribuir para se travar toda tentativa de expansão de espaços de instabilidade e de insegurança. Cabo Verde assume plenamente esta visão, em defesa da segurança internacional.

As recentes medidas de perdão da dívida a 18 dos países mais pobres do planeta deixam-nos mais optimistas quanto à possibilidade de novas iniciativas para a resolução definitiva da questão das dívidas externas africanas. Seria um contributo adicional que permitiria a consolidação da tendência actual de retoma do crescimento económico nos países da África Sub-sahariana, embora, não seja, por si só, suficiente para garantir o sucesso de uma política de erradicação da pobreza. Com efeito, para vencer a pobreza são necessárias políticas criteriosas, a afectação de mais recursos e a promoção de parcerias mais estreitas. Só desta forma, é possível oferecer aos homens e mulheres do mundo inteiro, sobretudo àqueles que mais necessidades têm, a possibilidade de recolher os benefícios da globalização.

Tenho, finalmente, o prazer de reiterar os meus agradecimentos ao Presidente Fradique de Menezes por vindo partilhar connosco a celebração do XXX Aniversário da Independência, o que nos honra de sobremaneira. Saúdo e agradeço as presenças amigas do Senhor Primeiro-Ministro da República do Senegal, nosso vizinho mais próximo, e do Sr. Representante do Pessoal do Senhor Presidente da República da Mauritânia.

De igual modo, é com satisfação que saúdo as presenças amigas dos Senhores Presidentes dos Parlamentos de Portugal, de Moçambique e de Timor, do Senhor Vice-Presidente do Parlamentos Angolano, dos Senhores Representantes dos Parlamentos do Brasil e de S.

Tomé e Príncipe. A todos agradeço, penhorado, pela sua presença, entre nós, na celebração desta data carregada de história.

Saúdo com iguais sentimentos de amizade e de simpatia a presença amiga do Presidente do Governo da Comunidade das Canárias, Senhor Adan Martin Menis, que muito nos honra e testemunha a alta qualidade das relações existentes entre Cabo Verde e Canárias.

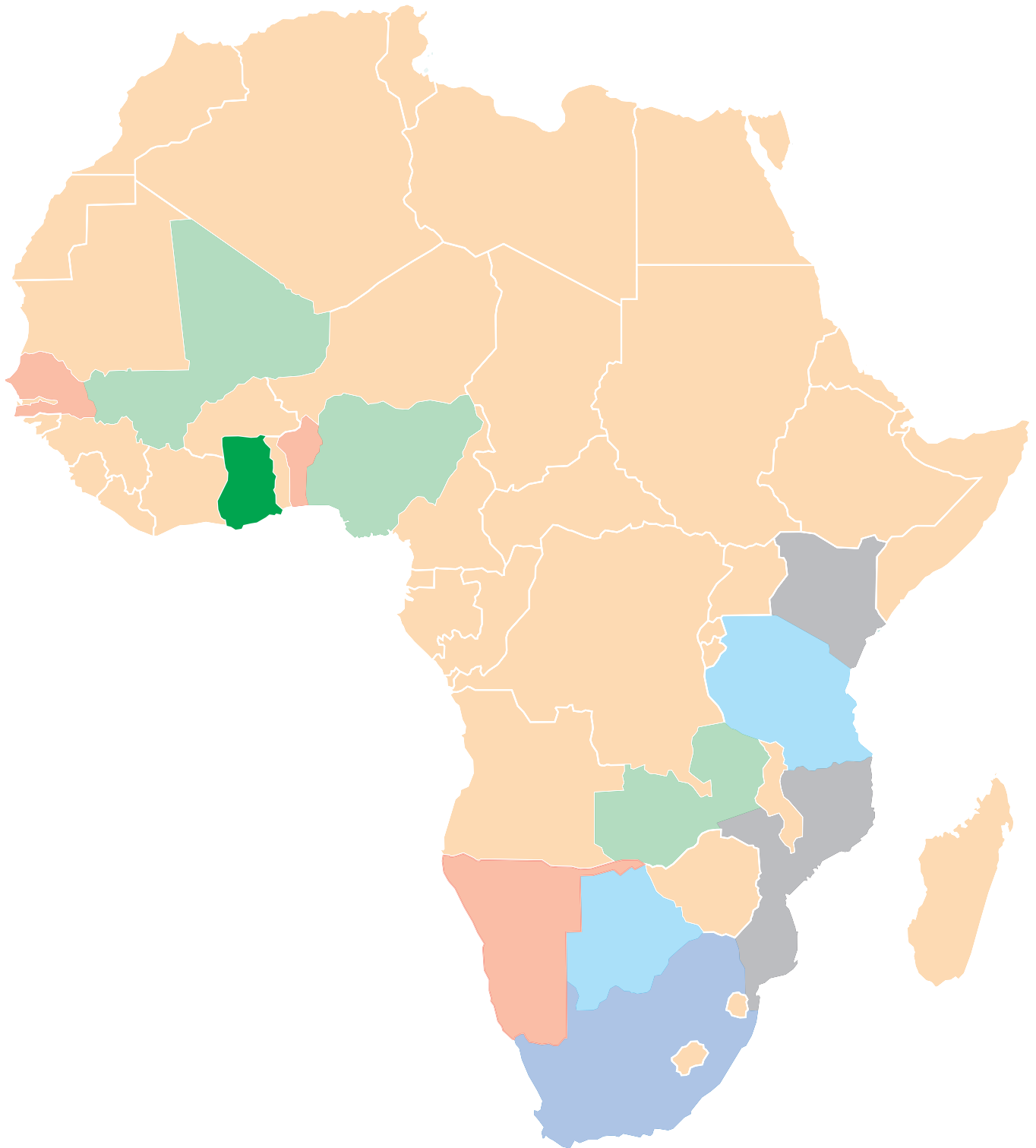
Não posso deixar de também assinalar, com satisfação, a feliz coincidência da presença, nesta data e neste acto, do Senhor Paul Applegarth, Director do Millenium Challenge Corporation.

A todos Vós, Senhoras e Senhores, que quistes partilhar connosco este momento alto da celebração do XXX Aniversário da Independência, reitero os nossos melhores agradecimentos.

A todas cabo-verdianas e a todos os cabo-verdianos, renovo os meus votos de Feliz XXX Aniversário.

Muito obrigado, a todos!

GHANA



GHANA



**State of the Nation Address by His
Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor,
President of the Republic of Ghana,
at Parliament
3 February 2005
Accra**



I have come before the House today in compliance with the constitutional requirement that I deliver to Parliament a message on the state of the nation at the beginning of the session.

Before I launch into the business at hand, let me formally congratulate you, the Right Honourable Mr. Ebenezer Begyina Sekyi Hughes, on your election to the high office of Speaker of Parliament. I pray that God grants you wisdom to discharge the heavy responsibility that has been entrusted to you.

With your kind permission, I also welcome the fresh intake of the 118 new members in this House. I congratulate [them] and wish them well. My congratulations also go to the continuing members on their reelection, and I pray that they bring their experience to bear for the benefit of the House and the nation as a whole.

I look forward to, and indeed the nation expects, the highest quality of deliberations and debates from this House. We also expect a mature and fruitful relationship between the legislature and the executive, to accelerate the realization of government's vision of making Ghana a just, humane, and prosperous nation.

CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS

The elections dominated everything last year; they were vigorously fought, and naturally some won and others lost. That is how it should be. But now that a new term has started, it is important that a period of peace ensues and [that] the nation's energies concentrate on building the happy and prosperous nation that we all desire.

In implementing its Agenda for Positive Change during its first term of office, the NPP

[New Patriotic Party] government succeeded in laying a firm foundation for rapid economic growth. I am particularly proud that the average citizen now takes as normal the general atmosphere of freedom and a vibrant media scene. This is helping in no small measure to develop the self-confidence that is required to build a modern nation.

The five priority areas for development selected by government were dictated by the situation that confronted us in [the] year 2001. They have served us well, the achievements are manifest, and they remain essentially work[s] in progress. It is on these priorities that the NPP government is basing the implementation of Positive Change Chapter 2, which is for accelerated growth.

Government is sharpening its focus more by adopting a three-pronged strategy: (1) vigorous human-resource development, (2) private-sector development, and (3) a continuing emphasis on good governance. These priorities will drive all programmes and accelerate the pace of their implementation. Additionally, government will promote the concept of ‘Ghana Incorporated’ to inculcate a businesslike approach to all spheres of activity and [to] emphasize the interdependence and common destiny among all stakeholders of the polity. This will translate into direct and interactive participation in governance to generate a collective sense of ownership of policies, programmes, and indeed the entire development process. The resultant synergy from this collective effort should enable the nation to achieve the desired goal of a just, humane, and prosperous society for all.

THE MACROECONOMY

But visions, programmes, and policies are pursued within an economy, and the stronger the economy, the better the chances for success. I am happy to be able to state with reasonable confidence that even though Ghana’s economy is not yet in the league of the ‘Asian tigers’, stability and growing confidence are now its hallmarks. It can therefore provide the needed support for our policies and programmes. Currently, there are positive economic indicators such as declining

inflation of 11.8 percent, a lower lending interest rate of 26 percent, and a stabilizing local currency.

Significantly, the GDP [gross domestic product] growth rate, which was projected at 5.2 percent by the close of [the] year 2004, has exceeded all expectation and achieved a rate of 5.8 percent. For the first time since the liberalization of the foreign-exchange market in 1990, the country has registered the highest gross international reserve of four months’ import cover. These developments are of great interest to both local and foreign investors.

Confidence is steadily building in our capital market as the Ghana Stock Exchange registers impressive performances. It continues to be among the highest-performing exchanges on the continent, with the GSE [Ghana Stock Exchange] all-share index recording a growth of 91.3 percent at the close of last year.

If proof was needed that the performance of the Stock Exchange had indeed reached a remarkable state, it was provided last week when a leading preacher of one of the charismatic churches was heard spiritedly advising his congregation to start investing on the Ghana Stock Exchange. On hearing this story, I said to myself, ‘There goes a smart preacher’, concerned not only about the spiritual development of his congregation, but also about their financial and material well-being. This is good advice that all of us can benefit from, especially in our quest for wealth-creation.

To sustain the macroeconomic gains already achieved, government will continue to maintain strict financial discipline and the monetary policy, which aims at achieving single-digit inflation to make the economy stronger and planning easier. More impetus will be put into revenue mobilization to be able to reduce government’s domestic borrowing and make credit available to local investors. Government will also continue to ensure the stability of the cedi to support commerce and investment in the economy.

HUMAN-RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The first plank of the new strategy is human-resource development. The expertise, health, and

progressive outlook of human capital are what will move the economy and propel the country into a middle-income nation in the next ten years.

Education

The obvious starting point to develop this resource must be the education system. Government has now published a white paper detailing the structure of education that will prepare the nation's human resources adequately to meet national aspirations and respond to global challenges. In line with this, government has [made] some radical decisions in critical areas to address some of the key concerns.

First-Cycle Education

Formal education will now start at age four, with two years of kindergarten. This is aimed at ensuring that equal opportunities are provided for all Ghanaian children from an early age. The next nine years, made up of six years of primary education and three years of junior high school, will lay the foundation for [the] literacy and numeracy required for meaningful second-cycle schooling. These eleven years will meet the constitutional requirement of Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) for all Ghanaian children.

Second-Cycle Education

The senior high school will be of four years' duration. The second cycle will be radically transformed to offer four different strands comprising technical, agricultural, vocational, and grammar-type education. Those who do not make it to the senior high school at age fifteen will be [provided] with a year's apprenticeship course, the cost of which will be borne by the state. A National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training will be established under the Ministry of Education and Sports to implement this new programme.

In line with current policy, private industry, commerce, and services will be encouraged to

participate with government in the running of these programmes and provision of the apprenticeship course.

I recommend both the committee's report and the government white paper for study by Honourable Members, and I sincerely hope that the measures will receive wide support to make their implementation easier. Government is certain that the new system will make our human capital better trained and better prepared for the challenges of the modern world.

The success of all these reforms will depend on the quality of our teachers and their contentment. Teacher education and skills training are therefore at the heart of all the proposed reforms. It is planned that by 2015 all primary and second-cycle schools will be staffed with professionally trained teachers. To ensure effective teaching, the current teacher-incentive schemes will be reviewed and expanded to benefit more teachers.

Government accepts that these reforms will cost a lot of money, but [they] are necessary. I therefore urge Parliament and the nation at large to give them their fullest support. And I must also at this stage express the gratitude of the nation to those among our development partners like DANIDA [Danish International Development Agency], DFID [United Kingdom Department for International Development], JICA [Japanese International Cooperation Agency], the European Union, and USAID [United States Agency for International Development] who are helping us to make the education-sector project a reality.

Government is very much conscious that this is a major policy decision with far-reaching implications; implementation is therefore being carried out very carefully and systematically.

Tertiary-Level Education

Tertiary-level education has been witnessing rapid growth in the past few years and should continue to grow to meet the manpower requirements of the economy.

Government is engaged in upgrading the physical infrastructure at the public universities.

A scheme has also been put in place for faculty development with the aim of attracting and retaining young people [for] the profession.

The truth, however, is that the economy cannot fully support the level of funding required to run the universities at the level we would all like. It is probably instructive to acknowledge that all over the world, and even in stronger and more established economies, cost sharing has become the norm at tertiary-level education. This is why government appreciates the role of the private universities and [why] they must be helped to expand to provide access to the many that cannot otherwise find places.

I must also place on record here government's commitment to the polytechnic [schools]. That is the place to train the hands-on technical personnel the nation needs to move the economy. Government will continue to invest in the polytechnics and help them to grow in self-confidence.

Information and Communications Technology

In today's world, there cannot be human-resource development without the integration of information and communications technology [ICT] at all levels of training. This provides the cutting edge.

Coincidentally, Ghana is currently hosting the African Regional Preparatory Conference of the World Summit on the Information Society. The theme is how to make the deployment of ICT accessible to all to promote national development.

Already, the Ghana ICT for the Accelerated Development Policy document has been prepared, and a revised National Telecommunications Policy has been published determining the overall guiding vision, which defines the market structure, institutional roles, and development strategies.

Plans are far advanced to rapidly improve the telecom infrastructure and establish a first-class backbone to interconnect the entire country and beyond. In this regard, I am happy to observe that a variety of telecommunication services are currently available to more than 50 percent of

towns with senior secondary schools and/or training colleges, which is already making the [President's Special Initiative on] Distance Learning Programme possible.

In furtherance of this policy, the Ghana Investment Fund for Telecommunication (GIF-TEL) is being established to extend the telecommunication infrastructure to cover both the public and private sectors.

Sports

Government is convinced that sports appropriately belong within the ambit of education, not only as a practical demonstration of the ancient, wise saying of a healthy mind in a healthy body, but also because if we are to make headway in the international competitive sporting field, we have to catch our athletes young. The school infrastructure and environment are best suited to discovering and developing sporting talent. Playing fields will be developed for all schools, and sports will be an integral part of school activities.

To attract funding to improve on sports infrastructure, Ghana will host the African Cup of Nations in 2008. In pursuit of this, work will commence this year on the construction of two new stadia in Tamale and Sekondi. The stadia in Accra and Kumasi will also be renovated and upgraded for the competition.

In the same vein, government will pursue vigorously its plan to upgrade community parks and other stadia in the regions and districts through collaboration with the Regional Administrations and the District Assemblies. I am sure members will be delighted to know that a National Sports Hall of Fame has been established to recognize our past and current sporting heroes.

Youth

You would recall that during my inaugural address a few weeks ago, I made a special call [for] the youth of the nation to take advantage of the opportunities that are emerging in our country. Let me reiterate this call. The future belongs to the youth. Government is putting in place all

the necessary measures to enable young people [to] prepare themselves for the future. Let me remind them that the most important part of any training is mental and attitudinal. A disciplined life will ensure success in whatever field of endeavour one chooses. A proper work ethic has been sorely missing in our workplaces, and government will make sure that the training programmes being put in place will emphasize discipline and good citizenship.

In this regard, the Skills Training and Employment Placement Programme will continue. Additionally, an amount of GHC 4.5 billion has been released to improve and expand the facilities at the Youth Leadership and Skills Institute at Afiénya. Other youth institutes such as those in Nalerigu, Ajumako, Afranse, and Wassa Akropong are all receiving attention.

Health

One of the most difficult problems that has faced this nation is how to make health delivery easily accessible and humane. I believe that the National Health Insurance scheme that has been launched offers the solution to this age-old problem. Government will continue to focus on the full implementation of the scheme, including the inbuilt protection for the poor and the vulnerable.

Meanwhile, the National Ambulance Service [Policy and Implementation Plan], which was introduced in Accra last year, will be extended to the other regions. Accident and emergency centres in health institutions will also be established in all regions.

Government will continue to lay emphasis on managing the six preventable diseases as well as intensifying the fight against tuberculosis, malaria, Buruli ulcer, and guinea worm. Even though public awareness has increased significantly in the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the expected result of lowered infection rates has not materialized. We must renew the campaign for actual changes in our behaviour, because AIDS is real and can negate all our efforts. The AIDS Commission is obviously doing its best but will need the help and cooperation of the entire society if we are to defeat this danger.

Health, education, and sports combine under human-resource development, but given the rapidly changing trends in the world around us, this sector should be characterized by continual training and retraining, particularly in the areas of human psychology, to build a versatile, adaptable, and forward-looking human-resource base for our socioeconomic development.

PRIVATE-SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

The development of the private sector is the second priority. This sector is made up of large, medium, and small enterprises. Whereas the large and medium are within the formal sector of the economy, many of the small enterprises, which constitute by far the majority of the private sector, operate outside the purview of the state. They are unregulated and have come to be described as informal.

The problems bedeviling this informal sector are manifold. Individuals and enterprises are unable to keep pace with modernity. They do not keep proper books and largely operate on a subsistence level. It is therefore necessary for the state to fashion a plan to discover and incorporate this part of the private sector into the formal economy.

This plan should entail provision of a basic programme aimed at awakening individuals and enterprises of the sector to the potential benefits of submitting to such basic disciplines as book-keeping, banking, and other entrepreneurial skills. This process should involve the provision of some basic courses targeted at the sector by the state. The success of this programme will largely depend on confidence building, which should command the attention of a special department within the Ministry of Private Sector Development. The work of this department will be facilitated by the national identification exercise [that] government is determined to launch in the course of this year.

The importance of this informal sector is in the fact that it encompasses a host of activities, including agriculture, commerce, manufacturing, construction, music, and entertainment. By far the majority of our national population is

captured in this sector. It will therefore be appreciated that the successful reform of the sector should have a major and far-reaching impact on the development of our society and economy. Indeed, this is the level where the turnaround of the economy must be pursued.

Funding

Now to the formal private sector of large, medium, and small enterprises. Funding has been the major problem of the entire private sector. Government is determined that through continuous efficient management of the macro-economy, it will facilitate access to credit for the sector [through] the lowering of interest rates, stable currency, and also purpose—fashioned guarantee—schemes.

The finance sector will be encouraged to introduce innovative financial instruments to ensure that this section of the private sector is empowered to grow and expand. In furtherance of this, the Long-Term Savings Law and the Venture Capital Fund Law have been passed. And here I would like to acknowledge some of our development partners, like USAID, JICA, DANIDA, DFID, [the] EU, and Italy, who are also assisting the private sector with funds.

Government has set up microfinancing schemes with affordable terms for the small-to medium-scale enterprises to promote their development.

The administration of these schemes will be decentralized to all the regions of the country to give fair access to our farmers, artisans, small-scale transporters, construction companies, market women, practitioners of various vocations, and other self-employed persons. To sustain these facilities, their management must be very professional to ensure a high degree of recovery of loans for relending. Further, beneficiaries will be assisted with entrepreneurial training and skills.

Over the past two years government has relied on the advice of the Ghana Investors' Advisory Council, in which the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre plays a central role. Regular interaction has been promoted among

the various stakeholders, including the Private Enterprises Foundation, the Association of Ghana Industries, the Ghana Chamber of Commerce, the Employers' Association, and organized labour to [make] operational the concept of Ghana Incorporated and [the] development of the sector.

Within the sector, agriculture—which is the largest employer of labour and the backbone of our economy—will be modernized through mechanization. Agriculture will also be assisted with irrigation, improved planting materials, credit, [and] land reform, as well as capacity building and the inculcation of best business practices. This is to improve productivity and profitability, reduce drudgery, and attract youth into the sector. It is appropriate to acknowledge here that many of our universities are rising to the challenge by offering various courses in agriculture and entrepreneurial skills.

Ghana has been a monocrop economy for a long time, and it is time we diversified. One of the strategies that has been adopted for this purpose is the Presidential Special Initiative (PSI). It is to assist farmers, introduce new crops, and add value to them. Further, it is to generate mass employment and develop the rural areas. The PSI is a good example of government's facilitating the development of the private sector by creating the enabling environment for it to flourish.

Some PSIs have already taken off in agriculture and manufacturing, and are making an impact. For example, it may interest the House to know that the ASCo [Ayensu Starch Company] factory has projected to export ten thousand tonnes of industrial starch with an estimated value of US\$2.8 million this year. Two new similar starch companies will be established in other regions this year. The PSI is also encouraging the development of nuclear and satellite enterprises in both agriculture and manufacturing. The development of sorghum and maize for industrial use by the breweries is a PSI in its pilot stage. A PSI in palm oil has already taken off, while another is targeted at the development of cotton.

Export Processing Zone

The other PSI is in textiles and garments, and many companies in this area are already locating in the export processing zone. Some high-performing garment companies are doing very well in the zone, and there are several success stories.

There are very promising developments within the sector [that] are attracting world leaders like AngloGoldAshanti, Newmont Mining Corporation, and now ALCOA, the world's leading aluminum producer. The mere presence of these great companies here is making an important statement to the world. If Ghana stays this course, the nation will see a great industrial take-off within the next five years.

Tourism

If the private sector is to come into its own, it is crucial that the nation looks beyond the obvious, and tourism is one such area.

Government's policy is to develop the country's tourism potential and [to] make Ghana the preferred tourist destination in the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] subregion. We must exploit our historical relics and the high reputation the nation enjoys internationally for hospitality, peace, and stability. Ghana's potential in ecotourism, for example, remains largely unexplored. Government intends to partner [with] the private sector to take full advantage of this untapped gold mine.

Housing

Housing remains one of the most urgent problems facing the country, and government is collaborating with the private sector to find a proper solution. A reviewed housing policy document in connection with low-cost housing programmes will be placed before Parliament in the course of the year.

To prosecute this agenda, government will use various instruments—including the issuance of bonds and the encouragement of private-sector companies—to support the development of the housing sector.

Government will also support banks and other mortgage institutions to provide more lending portfolios to individuals and real estate developers to provide housing to low- and medium-income workers in the country.

Meanwhile, there is a private-sector initiative for the construction of an initial ten thousand units of houses nationwide, and this is expected to commence this year. An SSNIT [Social Security and National Insurance Trust]/Malaysian Housing Programme to provide some one hundred thousand units countrywide is also coming on stream.

INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT

I wish to assure this House that there are aggressive, ongoing infrastructural developments to support our development of both the private sector and our human-resource base. Road construction projects in both rural and urban areas are in progress. Mass transportation, including rail transport, is being steadily developed. Expansion programmes are under way at all our ports to increase patronage and to make them more investor-friendly.

Government has wound up the affairs of Ghana Airways, and a new airline, Ghana International Airlines, has been incorporated.

Requisite measures have also been taken to ensure that energy requirements of the nation will be met. The West Africa Gas Pipeline Project and [the] West Africa Power Pool Protocol are both coming on stream. The electricity subsector is also being improved to provide better-quality service.

The water supply problem is being tackled systematically with the help of donors. Again, private-sector operators are being encouraged to participate in the sector. Government will introduce a water policy bill in Parliament this year.

PETROLEUM

This year government will make a decision on the deregulation of the petroleum sector. The continued handling of the sector by government makes it difficult to respond appropriately to market forces when necessary. At the moment,

the unrealistic pricing makes our petroleum products the cheapest within our immediate neighbourhood and prone to smuggling. The general laws of economic reality apply to Ghana, and we cannot continue to pretend otherwise. Deregulation will free government budgetary resources, allowing it to cut down on borrowing and to increase allocations to vital social services. It will also allow the private sector to assume the role of a service provider within a well-regulated environment.

Initially, this policy is bound to cause some shock to the system. In the short term, it is likely to result in a rise in inflation. However, several studies have been made, and we believe that with goodwill and sound management, whatever problems will be encountered within the short term will be surmounted, and the economy will be the healthier for this policy.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

This government's third priority in its second term is continued good governance, and I am sure that no member of this House is surprised about that. Good governance is the guiding principle [that] has underpinned all policies of this government. The peace and security we are enjoying now is due to the practice of good governance. The agents of government and civil society are all playing their roles within the confines of the Constitution. Good governance [is] reflect[ed] in good macroeconomic management, as well as [in] efficient and effective implementation of policies across the entire spectrum of national life.

Government has put the necessary legislative and administrative instruments in place to create the proper environment for the entrenchment of good governance.

In addition to legislation recently enacted, the Right to Information Bill, which guarantees the citizens' right to relevant public information, and the Whistle Blowers Bill will bring the fight against corruption and graft to a new level. The passage of these bills will be a major priority this year, and it is hoped that as individuals enjoy the constitutionally enshrined freedoms of associa-

tion and expression, they should also exercise a sense of responsibility.

It is recalled that last year, twenty-eight new District Assemblies were created. This decentralization process is to carry democracy to the doorsteps of the people and deepen good governance by involving the citizenry at all levels of decision making.

The National Policy on Gender and Children was also launched last year to ensure the mainstreaming of gender concerns in national development.

Constitutional agencies like CHRAJ [Commission on Human Rights and Justice], NCCE [National Commission on Civic Education], and the National Media Commission will receive increased budgetary support as the economy improves to enable them [to] become more efficient in their assignments.

All these measures have created an environment [that] provides the backdrop for an evolving and self-confident society—a society within which the policies of Chapter 2 can be implemented.

Ghanaians are proud of the peace and quiet in this country, and rightly so. They all have contributed in various ways in maintaining this peaceful environment. But we must also remember that a major deterrent to misrule and social misbehaviour is effective law enforcement. Government will therefore continue the policies [that] have empowered the law enforcement agencies to work effectively to keep the current peace and security of the nation. In this regard, the equipment and logistic strength of the police service will be enhanced steadily, in addition to the training and retraining of police personnel. Early-warning systems on internal conflicts are being developed; at the same time, coordination among the security agencies is being improved to promote optimal utilization of available resources.

FOREIGN POLICY

For the past four years, the nation has pursued a foreign policy of good neighbourliness in the ECOWAS subregion and Africa. With the rest of the world, the policy has been strategic

geopolitics to the mutual advantage of the nation and its partners. This policy has earned Ghana a good international image and opened up significant investment opportunities.

Government will maintain this policy, maintaining its special commitment to ECOWAS, the African Union, and its NEPAD [New Partnership for Africa's Development] programme as well as international bodies like the UN [United Nations] and the Commonwealth. This will help to capitalize on the resultant goodwill in order to attract even greater foreign investment for economic growth and poverty reduction. Most sincere and observant Ghanaians will confirm that Positive Change Chapter 1 has been a success. For the next four years, this nation will develop rapidly, driven by the three-pronged strategy of human-resource development, private-sector development, and good governance in Positive Change Chapter 2. Our success will result in the creation of a just, humane, and prosperous nation.

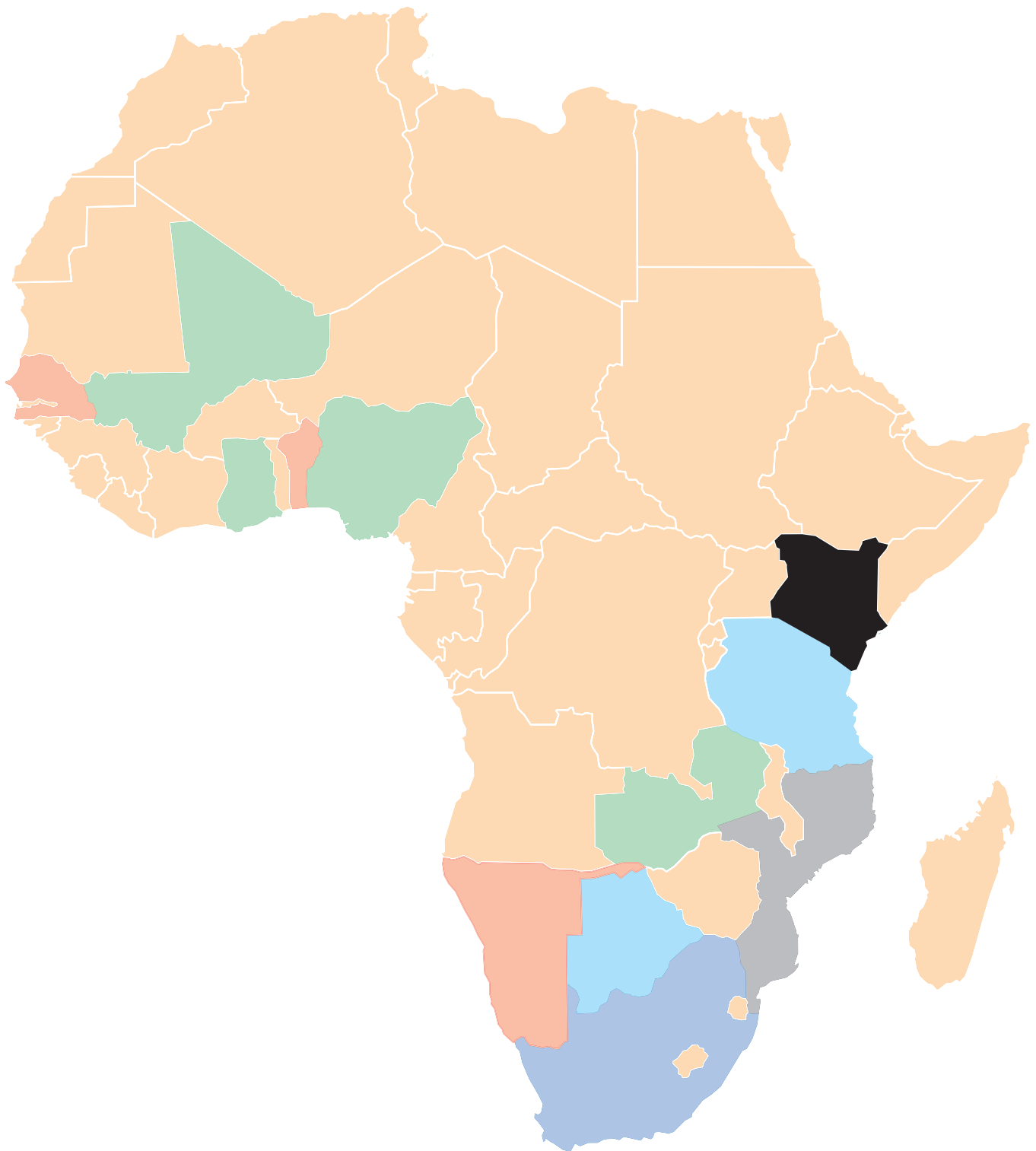
Government will count on the continued goodwill of development partners in this endeavour and the commitment of every Ghanaian. I trust that even as this House discharges its constitutional obligation, each Honourable Member will keep the vision in sight and play his or her role towards the realization of our collective vision.

CONCLUSION

As I have said on another occasion, this is a good time to be a Ghanaian. These are exciting times; we have a clear vision about where we should go as a nation and how we [can] get there. Let [us] work together to make this nation the just, humane, and prosperous one it can be. Together, we can, and we will.

I thank you. God bless us all, and God bless Ghana.

KENYA



KENYA



**State of the Nation Address by
His Excellency Mwai Kibaki, CGH, MP,
President and Commander in
Chief of the Armed Forces of the
Republic of Kenya
October 2005**



I am pleased once again to make my contribution to the annual *African Leaders State of Africa Report*. I take this early opportunity to express my gratitude to the African Presidential Archives and Research Center for the continued efforts [to] disseminate the African point of view to investors, policy makers, and the general public.

THE ECONOMY

As requested, I will begin by providing an overview of the state of the Kenyan economy. As I noted during my last contribution, my government was elected primarily on the platform of economic recovery. Prior to my assuming leadership, the Kenyan economy was in a state of stagnation and decline. Economic performance was dismal, with growth rates of less than 2 percent on average for the better part of the 1990s.

I am glad to note [that] as a result of the firm actions we have taken to ensure a sound policy environment, provide the requisite infrastructure, and reform our basic institutions of management, business, and governance, the economy has recorded sustained recovery in the last two years of my leadership. Last year, the economy grew by 4.3 percent, compared to 2.8 percent in 2003 and 0.4 percent in 2002. We expect this trend to persist, and real GDP [gross domestic product] growth rate is indeed forecast to accelerate to more than 5 percent in 2005.

This overall improvement is reflected in the performance of key sectors of the economy. The growth of the agricultural sector has progressively improved from 0.8 percent in 2002 to 1.5 percent in 2003 and 1.8 percent last year.

The manufacturing sector has also grown consistently, from 1.2 [percent] in 2002, to 1.4 [percent] in 2003, and 2 percent last year. In the energy sector, consumption has gone up from 2.5 percent in 2002, to 5.4 [percent] in 2003, and 7.9 percent last year. Mobile-phone subscribers have risen from 25,000 in 1999 to 3.9 million this year.

External trade has also improved, with the volume of our exports increasing by 24.5 percent in 2004, up from 8.9 percent in 2003. Total exports to the African region expanded by 20.3 percent, thus raising our share of exports to the region to 47.5 percent in 2004. Within the COMESA [Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa] region, our exports increased by 21.1 percent, while exports to the European Union rose by 8.9 percent. In value terms, our export earnings rose significantly on account of improved international commodity prices and expanded export volumes.

We appreciate that in the global economy, we will not be able to achieve economic success without increasing trade with the rest of the world. We will, therefore, continue to play a proactive role in regional integration initiatives such as the East African Community and COMESA. We will also continue with our vigorous policy of expanding our range of markets to new markets in North America, [the] Middle East, and the Far East.

The tourism industry has also recorded remarkable growth despite many global challenges. With support from our development partners, my government has mounted aggressive promotion campaigns to attract more visitors. The number of tourist arrivals was up 10 percent in 2003 and rose by 22 percent last year. As a result, earnings from the sector rose from Kshs. 25.7 billion in 2003 to Kshs. 41.3 billion last year. The robust growth is attributed to improved marketing, particularly in nontraditional markets such as China, Japan, and India, and [to] diversification away from traditional beach and wildlife tourism to new circuits in the western and northern parts of the country. We have, however, also stepped up our marketing campaigns in our traditional markets of Europe and the Americas.

Arrivals also picked up following an increase in capacity by international carriers into Kenya's international airports.

Similarly, with increased promotion of domestic and conference tourism and improved security surveillance, particularly in the airports and areas visited by tourists, tourism is bound to pick up significantly [and] to be among the fastest-growing sectors in the economy in the coming years.

We have also begun the process of reducing our domestic and external debt. Gross domestic debt as a percent of GDP decreased to 24.35 percent at end of June 2005 from 25.36 percent at the end of June 2004. Similarly, external debt decreased to 33.13 percent of GDP at end of June 2005 from 36.69 percent at end of June 2004. The above developments resulted in a decrease in the stock of public debt from 62.05 percent of GDP in June 2004 to 57.48 percent of GDP in June 2005. While the declining trend in the debt-to-GDP ratio is an indicator of an easing debt burden for Kenya, debt-servicing remains a major burden to the economy and our people. Over 10 percent of all our revenues from the export of goods and services go to service our debt. I am confident that our economy can pick [up] much faster with increased development assistance and debt relief to supplement our other efforts.

With respect to foreign investments, my government has taken deliberate steps to attract investors. We have sought to do this by creating the appropriate environment for investments and by providing attractive incentives to investors. So far, we have introduced various tax measures aimed at attracting investors and facilitating industrial development. In financial years 2003–2004 and 2004–2005, we introduced tax reforms, including duty waivers on capital goods, plants, and equipment. We also increased investment allowance from 60 percent to 100 percent. In the current budget, the government also abolished seventeen trading licences to simplify the licensing regime and reduce the cost of doing business. We have also ratified the Common External Tariff under the East African Community and other trade agreements in order to expand our market horizon.

In addition to these measures, my government has implemented bold reforms to eradicate corruption, which has been a key concern to investors. A sectorwide strategy to deal with corruption is already in place. The Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission and the rest of the government's anti-corruption apparatus have commenced operations. Additional measures are under way to augment the capacity of all government agencies along the corruption prosecution chain to handle a large number of prosecution cases; [to] develop systems for annual declaration and verification of wealth, assets, and liabilities; [to] amend the Public Officer Ethics Act, 2003, to make declarations of assets and liabilities amenable to public scrutiny; and [to] develop a robust program of asset recovery and restitution.

THE SOCIAL SECTOR

Pertaining to the social sector, my government has placed great emphasis on the reform of the health and education sectors. The provision of quality education provides the only avenue of ensuring the competitiveness of our economy in today's knowledge economy. Towards improving the provision of education in the country, my government has prepared a sessional paper on education and training, which was recently debated and approved by Parliament. To realize the objectives of the new policy, my government has developed a comprehensive five-year sector programme, the Kenya Education Sector Support Programme. This programme has gone through a joint appraisal of the government and our development partners and is now [in] the first phase of implementation.

In the meantime, my government continues to carry out the implementation of free primary education. In addition to this, the government has committed substantial resources in support of the poor in marginalized areas.

On secondary school, the government has committed substantial funds to secondary-school bursaries to enable children from poor households [to] join secondary schools. This fund is critical to the education of the children from

poor families. On tertiary and university education, my government has set up the Public Universities' Inspection Board to review the current situation and advise on the necessary reforms. To meet the growing demands for education, more resources than the government can mobilize are required. For this reason, I call upon our development partners to join my government in ensuring that our aims and objectives are met.

In our efforts to reform the education sector, the importance of information and communications technology (ICT) has not been lost on us. We are committed to integrating ICT in[to] [the] mainstream education system and equipping our youth with relevant ICT skills and knowledge. This will provide a solid foundation for ICT development in our country and open the door to the knowledge economy. Towards this end, we have entered the first phase of the implementation of the NEPAD [New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development] ICT programme, which is intended to nurture the appropriate ICT capacity for the sustainable development of our continent.

Besides education, the Kenya government has initiated extensive reforms in the health sector. The goal of these reforms is to ensure accessible, quality, and cost-effective health care services. One of the key problems affecting provision of health care has been the lack of adequate resources. To address this constraint, the government intends to increase total spending on health from 5.6 percent of total public expenditure to 12 percent by 2010. So far, in the current financial year, we increased total spending from 5.6 percent to 9 percent. Other ongoing reform measures include the rehabilitation of health facilities countrywide, decentralization of health care delivery services, and the streamlining of the system of procurement and distribution of drugs.

Fighting HIV/AIDS constitutes a key component of our health care strategy. I am glad to note that [the] prevalence rate has gone down from 14 percent in the 1990s to 7 percent this year. We have also made progress in ensuring access to care and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS. We have also stepped up measures

to combat the spread of TB [tuberculosis] in the country. The test and treatment for TB are free in all government health care facilities. Despite concerted efforts, malaria still accounts for 20 percent of all admissions [to] our hospitals. To reverse this trend, we have taken a wide range of measures, including removing taxes and tariffs on ready-made nets to make mosquito nets more affordable, especially to the vulnerable groups in our communities. However, we have begun providing free nets to pregnant mothers and children below five years of age. We have also stepped up the marketing of insecticide-treated nets and provided resources to strengthen the implementation of malaria control programmes.

Poverty reduction and eradication remain a key challenge in our social sector. While the improved performance of the economy has been reflected in the positive movement towards better living standards, the gains we have made are not enough to tackle the problems of poverty. My government has, therefore, put in place core poverty programmes, which are targeted at uplifting the living standards of the poor. In addition, the government has carried out a needs assessment that has enabled the country to estimate the resources and interventions needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, one of which is reducing poverty by half by the year 2015.

I should mention that our *Millennium Development Goals Needs Assessment Report 2005* indicates that the government will need to spend approximately US\$6.1 billion annually to meet the goals. This amount is way beyond our annual revenue collection by nearly US\$3 billion. We shall, therefore, continue to face the challenge of financing the Millennium Development Goals, especially in the face of current levels of donor support and the current debt burden being shouldered by the government.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Regarding national security, my government has mounted a wide range of measures to contain crime, including terrorism. In addition to equipping our security personnel with modern com-

munication facilities, improved transport, and remuneration, we have now launched the community policing programme. This programme is intended to enhance intelligence gathering by creating [a] partnership between the police and members of the public.

One of the key challenges to national security is the threat of cross-border and international crime. This challenge has taken the form of terrorism, narcotic trade, human trafficking, money laundering, and proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons. Our region has remained vulnerable to these problems due to our porous borders, the homogeneity of our people, and the incidence of armed conflicts in the region.

The transnational nature of these factors calls for a comprehensive regional networking and bridging of communication gaps in order to address crime in the region effectively. As part of these efforts, we established the National Counter-Terrorism Centre in January last year [2004]. Recently, we opened a regional fusion centre, which will be a clearinghouse in which all intelligence information relating to organized crime in the region will be shared.

While Kenya has continued to promote regional peace as a desirable end in itself, we are aware that the realization of durable peace in the region will be a major step forward towards the eradication of terrorism. I would like to point out that peace agreements on the Sudan and Somalia offer great hope [of] stability in the region. I take this opportunity to appeal to the international community to extend technical and material support in the reconstruction of these countries.

Kenya and other countries of the Great Lakes region have been engaged in conflict management and post-conflict peace building. Indeed, arrangements are on track for the second [Conference on] Peace, Security, Democracy, and Development in the Great Lakes region due to be held in Nairobi later this year. We should continue to pursue an integrated approach to state building as the only real basis for long-term stability. It is, therefore, critical that the [United Nations] Office of the Secretary-General's special representative to the Great Lakes region be

strengthened. Kenya welcomes the strengthening of the United Nations [UN] Political Office for Somalia. However, we believe the UN should become more engaged in that country. The problems of Somalia will only be resolved by building on the framework of what was achieved in Nairobi and by involving the Frontline States [Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti]. A new 'road map' is not the solution for the problems in that country. Equally important is the need for the international community to move quickly to ensure implementation of the peace accord in southern Sudan.

ENVIRONMENT

The conservation and protection of the environment remains an important priority of my government. So far, my government has produced the country's first annual (2003) *State of Environment (SOE) Report*, which provides information on the status and condition of the environment in Kenya. The report also highlights critical issues and concerns within the various environmental sectors. The findings form the baseline upon which the country tracks progress towards sustainable development. At the moment, we are in the process of finalizing the formulation of environmental standards, regulations, and guidelines for the following broad thematic areas: water quality, waste management, chemicals, pesticides, toxic substances, ozone layer and radiation, land use, conservation of biological resources and access to genetic resources, environmental[ly] significant areas, and environmental economic instruments. Our efforts in environmental conservation and protection have recently won international recognition as evidenced by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize last year to a Kenyan, the Honourable Professor Wangari Maathai. She was awarded the prestigious award for her exemplary work in environmental protection and advocacy.

GOALS AND CHALLENGES

The goal of my government is to achieve high economic growth rates, which will uplift the living standards of our people and transform Kenya into an economic powerhouse that will be the hub of business and investments in the region. We target growth rates in excess of 7 percent of GDP annually. While achievable, this is an enormous task, especially considering the many challenges we continue to face. These challenges include inadequate resources, poor infrastructure, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and an unfriendly international trade regime.

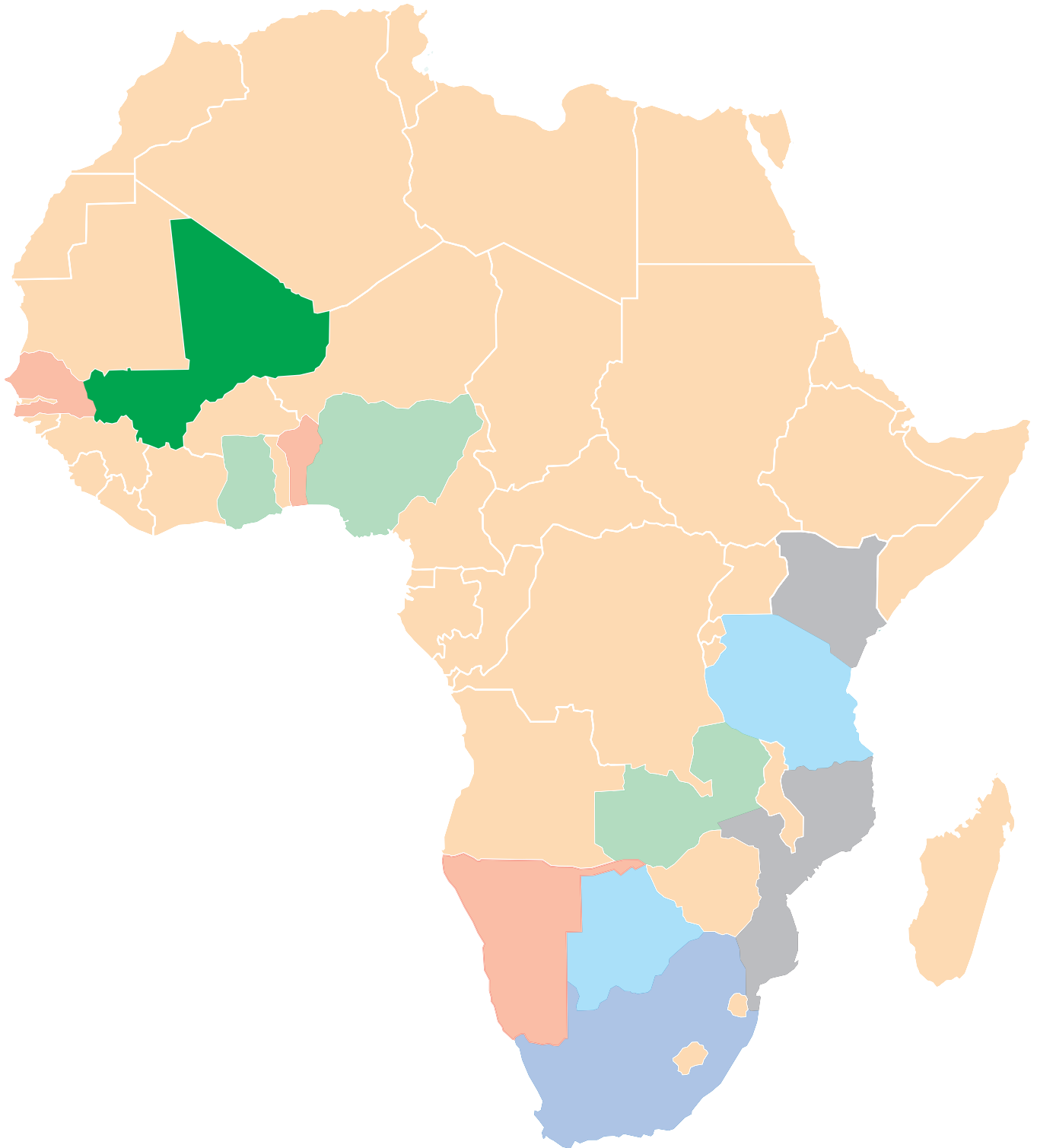
I am convinced that we can overcome these difficulties with the support of development partners. In particular, developed countries can help us a great deal by removing trade-distorting subsidies and improving market access for exports from our country. In particular, the imposition of tariffs that escalate as the level of processing increases has discouraged industrialization in our agricultural sector, which is the mainstay of our economy.

In addition, I would like to call upon our development partners, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, to include Kenya among the beneficiary nations of debt relief. Our pace of economic growth will remain very slow until external debt is reduced to [manageable] levels. Kenya continues to struggle with her huge debt burden. As I have already noted, over 10 percent of all our revenues from the export of goods and services goes to service our debt.

Finally, developed nations can support our efforts by increasing official development assistance. This will be particularly useful in helping [us to] invest adequately in infrastructure, education, and the health sector, which are key to the success of our economy. However, I would like to emphasize the need to reform the aid-delivery apparatus. Better aid coordination and multiyear commitments will go a long way in making development assistance more effective.

Thank you.

MALI



MALI



**Speech to the Nation by His
Excellency Amadou Toumani Touré,
President of the Republic of Mali,
on the Occasion of the Forty-Fifth
Anniversary of Mali's Independence
September 22, 2005**



We must, without resorting to nostalgia, draw from our civilization's values the moral resources necessary to confront the present and to launch into the future, a future of a Malian nation strong in its history and certain of its place in West Africa and Africa.

The commemoration of the forty-fifth anniversary of our country's accession to independence is a moment we are privileged to remember. It gives us a chance to celebrate, together and fervently, and to ponder this unique occurrence.

We have chosen the symbol of preserved and shared remembrance for September 22, 2005, preserved memory because we have decided to pay homage to renowned historical figures and to brave nameless fighters who opposed colonial domination with heroism and self-sacrifice.

This generation's duty of remembrance is that much more important to us as the struggles of our heroes have not always received the recognition they deserved, and their bravery has often been imperfectly recalled. The exploits of their campaigns are still unrecognized by Malians themselves, thus the need to permanently inscribe in our collective memory a lasting impression of pages from our history that are both glorious and sorrowful.

These pages were written by great men like Mamadou Lamine Drame, Cheiboun Ag Fandougouma, Bandiougou Diarra, El Hadj Omar Tall, Cherif Hamallah, Firhoun Ag Alinsar, Almamy Samory Touré, Ingoma Ag Mohamed Ahmed, Tièba Traoré, Babemba Traoré. This list is not exhaustive and could not obliterate the insurgences of some of our communities to affirm their thirst for freedom and refusal to surrender.

I think especially of the hotbeds of insurrection in Beledougou, led by Koumi Diosse Traoré; in the Volta Region, led by Yoro Benga; in Bani, led by Banzani Thera and Adama Dembélé; in Gourma, led by Mohamed Ahmed; and in Hodt, where Ould Abdouke was one of the main leaders.

I speak of shared memories because resistance to colonial domination was active throughout our entire country and won fame in battles that have remained legendary. Every Malian is heir to and depositor of this heroism and must cultivate its memory and perpetuate its virtues and values.

You will also agree with me that Sikasso is the perfect city to celebrate Malian heroes: the Tata is, altogether, the symbol of refusal and of freedom. I rejoice to note that the most glorious homage paid to our heroes came from the same people whom they fought against. For example, toward the beginning of the work *The Pioneers of Sudan, Before, During and After Archinard*, published in 1931, Jacques Meniaud wrote:

Sudan was the great school in which the soul of our colonial army was formed and in which French colonial doctrine was elaborated. Military reputations were made there, and young soldiers were formed who later were to be the pride of their nation and honorable examples to future generations: Gustave Borgnis-Desbordes, Joseph Gallieni, Louis Archinard, the two Bonnier brothers, Joseph Joffre, Jean-Baptiste Marchand, Charles Mangin, Baratier, Germain, Patey, Audeoud and later De Trentinian, Henri-Eugene Gouraud and many others.

We must remain faithful to the virtues and values defended by those who left us a heritage, a sense of honor, a taste for liberty, and the spirit of sacrifice.

The celebration of the resistance cannot happen only as reminiscence. For us, it is about drawing from the values of our civilization the moral resources necessary to confront the present and to launch into the future, the future of a Malian nation powered by its past and confident

of its West African and African future.

It is this common will to resist together that has enabled our country to bear the hard consequences of a difficult year with regard to food security. The state's efforts have incontestably diminished the impact of the bad winter of 2004, whose destructiveness was doubled by one of the most terrible locust invasions. Distribution campaigns of free goods helped to alleviate the difficulties of the affected zones. The reinstatement of cereal banks allowed families of modest income to stock up at affordable prices. At the same time, exceptional terms were provided to importers of cereals to end the spiral of price inflation, even though we regret that certain economic operators did not assume their responsibility to our satisfaction.

I instructed the government to learn from this experience. I also asked that we engage in profound reflection on our global food strategy, with a particular emphasis on our annual stocks for security and on the regulation of cereal markets, both subregional and regional.

I would like to thank specifically the friendly countries and the international organizations that supported the state in its actions taken on behalf of food security.

The winter that is coming to a close promises better harvests. We will continue to implore Allah that the current positive tendencies may continue until the total maturation of our crops. Production estimates are for more than 3 million tons of cereal and more than six hundred thousand tons of cotton. These estimates, if accurate, will be a just reward for our farmers' labor, and we congratulate them for results obtained under working conditions handicapped by a problematic climate and rudimentary technology.

Our land planning program and the initiatives taken toward the mechanization of our agriculture will bring appropriate responses to those affected by food shortages in the rural world. The law regarding agricultural orientation, which is being drafted, will complete our plan to open new horizons for Malian agriculture.

The favorable prospects outlined in our agricultural plan for 2006 should not lead us to diminish our efforts. The constant increase in the

price of hydrocarbons constitutes a significant constraining factor, which we must manage within the framework of national solidarity. Consequently, the promotion and exploitation on a larger scale of the biological carburant derived from “Baga ni,” the pourghere plant, should also be taken into consideration when we examine alternative-fuel strategies. The electrification of the village of Keleya based on these combustibles was a very satisfying experience. It is the government’s duty, through AMADER [Malian Agency for the Development of Household Energy and Rural Electrification] and other competent services, to assure a larger dispersion of this less-costly energy source.

I insist on the patriotic duty that commands us to tighten our ranks, like our famous fighters, in order that we may surmount all obstacles on the road to our development.

African integration, in which Mali is actively engaged, also indicates a kind of resistance to the common threats that our states face. In this sense, I would like to mention the pride of the Malian people in hosting, on this occasion of the forty-fifth anniversary of our independence, President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal as our guest of honor.

Yesterday, in the midst of the Malian Federation, and today, in the midst of regional and subregional organizations, Senegal and Mali represent a common will and a shared ambition for an African integration that will bring about an Africa that is stronger and more of a presence in the world.

It is time to emphasize the kinship ties that connect the Senegalese and the Malians. Isn’t the village of Mayel at Nioro in the Sahel, where the army of Alboury N’Diaye, king of Djolof, came to lend a strong hand to Cheickou Ahmadou against the forces of Colonel Louis Archinard on December 30, 1890, a symbol of this fraternity? The victims of this memorable battle numbered nine thousand dead, Senegalese and Malians fallen for freedom on the battleground of honor. Continuing this comradeship, our soldiers rub elbows today on all fronts to maintain peace on the continent.

The celebration of September 22 is an ideal moment to renew the nation’s respect for the Malian officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers serving under the banners of the United Nations, the African Union, and the CEDEAO [Economic Community of West African States].

Similar as they are to our soldiers on mission who are far from their families, I have a fraternal thought for all the Malians abroad. I want, here, to bear witness to their renewed interest in Mali, which will always offer them the opportunity to assert themselves in an environment that is secure for their investment projects.

To celebrate these forty-five years of Mali’s independence, we have decided to highlight our heroes of the resistance, whose fearless battle blazed our path toward liberty.

The nation attests, on this same occasion, its gratitude to the political organizations, unions, and women who conveyed at that time, with courage and determination, the message of emancipation; we also recognize the fathers of independence as well as all the elders who had to direct the first steps of the new state.

We are heirs to a glorious tradition of combat, and the celebration of our independence must remain a privileged occasion on which to express our pride in being a united nation, rich in the stability of our values and in the quality of our men and women, as well as in the diversity of our culture.

Such are our assets to meet the numerous challenges that are imposed by a complex century, during which our country will continue to seize every opportunity.

I am convinced that our people can do this.

Long live Mali in an Africa that is unified and peaceful!

Discours à la Nation de Son Excellence Monsieur Amadou Toumani Touré, Président de la République, Chef de l'Etat, à l'Occasion du 45ème Anniversaire de l'Indépendance du Mali 22 Septembre 2005

Il nous faut, sans passéisme, puiser dans nos valeurs de civilisation, les ressources morales nécessaires pour affronter le présent et nous projeter dans l'avenir, celui d'une nation malienne forte de son histoire, sûre de son futur ouest-africain et africain.

La commémoration du 45ème anniversaire de l'accession de notre pays à l'indépendance est un instant privilégié de souvenir. Elle offre l'occasion de nous retrouver pour célébrer, ensemble, ce moment unique dans la ferveur, mais également pour communier. Nous avons choisi de placer le 22 septembre 2005 sous le signe de la mémoire préservée et partagée.

Mémoire préservée, car nous avons décidé de rendre hommage à d'illustres figures historiques et à de valeureux combattants anonymes qui se sont opposés à la pénétration coloniale, avec vaillance et abnégation. Ce devoir de génération s'impose d'autant plus à nous que les luttes de nos héros n'ont pas toujours reçu l'éclairage qu'elles méritent et leur bravoure a été souvent imparfaitement restituée. Leurs hauts faits d'armes restent encore méconnus des Maliens eux-mêmes, d'où la nécessité d'inscrire durablement dans notre mémoire collective des pages à la fois glorieuses et douloureuses de notre histoire. Elles ont été écrites par des grands hommes comme Mamadou Lamine Dramé, Cheiboun Ag Fandougouma, Bandiougou Diarra, El Hadj Omar Tall, Chérif Hamallah, Firhoun

Ag Alinsar, Almamy Samory Toure, Ingoma Ag Mohamed Ahmed, Tièba Traoré, Babemba Traoré.

L'énumération n'est pas exhaustive et elle ne saurait passer sous silence les insurrections à l'actif de certaines de nos communautés, pour affirmer leur soif de liberté et le refus de la soumission. Je pense notamment aux foyers insurrectionnels du Bélédougou, avec Koumi Diossè Traoré; de la Région de la Volta, avec Yoro Benga; du Bani, conduit par Banzani Théra, Adama Dembélé; du Gourma, avec Mohamed Ahmed et du Hodt, dont Ould Abdouké fut un des principaux animateurs.

Mémoire partagée, parce que la résistance à la pénétration coloniale s'est exercée sur toute l'étendue de notre pays et s'est illustrée dans des batailles demeures célèbres. Tout Malien est héritier et dépositaire de cet héroïsme dont il doit cultiver le souvenir, perpétuer les vertus et les valeurs.

Vous conviendrez aussi avec moi que Sikasso est la ville d'élection par excellence pour célébrer les résistants maliens. Le Tata est à la fois l'emblème du refus et le symbole de la liberté.

Je me réjouis de relever que le plus bel hommage rendu à nos résistants, l'a été par ceux-là même qui les ont combattus. Ainsi, au début de l'ouvrage: «les pionniers du Soudan, avant, avec et après Archinard», publié en 1931, Jacques Meniaud écrit: «Le Soudan a été la grande école où s'est formée l'âme de notre armée coloniale et où s'est élaborée la doctrine coloniale française. On y verra se lever des réputations, évoluer et se former des jeunes militaires qui seront plus tard l'orgueil de la nation et des exemples d'honneur pour les générations futures: Gustave Borgnis-Desbordes, Joseph Galliéni, Louis Archinard, les deux frères Bonnier, Joseph Joffre, Jean-Baptiste Marchand, Charles Mangin, Baratier, Germain, Patey, Audéoud et plus tard De Trentinian, Henri-Eugène Gouraud et bien d'autres. . .».

Nous devons rester fidèles aux vertus et valeurs défendues par ceux qui nous ont laissé en héritage le sens de l'honneur, le goût de la liberté et l'esprit de sacrifice.

La célébration de la résistance ne se fait pas dans une vision passéiste. Pour nous, il s'agit

plutôt de puiser dans ces valeurs de civilisation, les ressources morales nécessaires pour affronter le présent et nous projeter dans l'avenir, celui d'une nation malienne forte de son histoire, sûre de son futur ouest-africain et africain.

C'est cette commune volonté de résister ensemble qui a permis à notre pays de vivre les dures conséquences d'une année difficile au plan de la sécurité alimentaire.

Les efforts de l'État ont incontestablement atténué l'impact du mauvais hivernage 2004 doublé d'une des plus graves invasions acridiennes. Des campagnes de distribution gratuite de vivres ont contribué à soulager les zones les plus affectées. La restauration des banques de céréales a permis aux revenus modestes de s'approvisionner à des coûts abordables.

Parallèlement, des facilités exceptionnelles ont été consenties aux importateurs de céréales pour briser la spirale de l'inflation des prix, même si on peut regretter que certains opérateurs économiques n'ont pas assumé, à notre satisfaction, leur part de responsabilité.

J'ai instruit au gouvernement d'en tirer tous les enseignements. J'ai souhaité, aussi, que s'engage une réflexion approfondie sur notre stratégie globale de sécurité alimentaire, avec un accent particulier sur nos stocks annuels de sécurité, sur la régulation du marché céréalier, sous-régional et régional.

Je tiens à remercier particulièrement les pays amis du Mali et les organismes internationaux qui ont appuyé l'État dans ses actions en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire.

L'hivernage qui tire à sa fin est riche de promesses de meilleures récoltes. Nous continuerons d'implorer Allah pour que les tendances positives observées jusqu'ici, se poursuivent jusqu'à la maturation totale de toutes nos cultures. Les estimations de production sont de plus de 3 millions de tonnes de céréales et de plus de 600.000 tonnes de coton. Ces prévisions sont une juste récompense du labeur de nos paysans que nous félicitons pour ces résultats obtenus dans des conditions de travail combinant le double handicap d'un environnement climatique précaire et technologique rudimentaire.

Le programme d'aménagement des terres et les initiatives engagées pour la mécanisation de notre agriculture apporteront des réponses appropriées aux attentes du monde rural. La Loi d'orientation agricole, en cours d'élaboration, complètera ce dispositif devant ouvrir de nouveaux horizons à l'agriculture malienne.

Les bonnes perspectives qui se dessinent au plan agricole pour 2006 ne doivent pas nous pousser à relâcher l'effort. Le renchérissement constant du prix des hydrocarbures constitue un facteur important de contraintes que nous devons gérer dans le cadre de la solidarité nationale. Aussi, la promotion et l'exploitation à une plus grande échelle du carburant biologique, dérivé du «Baga ni», la plante pourghère, sont à prendre en compte dans les stratégies alternatives. L'électrification du village de Kéléya sur la base de ce combustible est une expérience tout à fait satisfaisante. Il appartient au gouvernement, à travers l'Amader et les autres services compétents, d'assurer une plus large vulgarisation de cette source d'énergie moins onéreuse.

J'ai insisté sur le devoir patriotique qui nous commande de resserrer nos rangs comme nos illustres résistants pour surmonter tous les obstacles qui se dressent sur le chemin de notre développement.

L'intégration africaine, dans laquelle le Mali est fortement engagé, marque aussi, une forme de résistance de nos États face à des menaces communes. Dans ce sens, je voudrais dire la fierté du peuple malien à recevoir, à l'occasion de ce 45^{ème} anniversaire de notre indépendance, le président Abdoulaye Wade du Sénégal, comme invité d'honneur. Hier, au sein de la Fédération du Mali et aujourd'hui, au sein des organisations sous-régionales et régionales, le Sénégal et le Mali, c'est une commune volonté et une ambition partagée en vue de l'intégration africaine pour une Afrique toujours plus forte, plus présente dans le monde.

C'est le lieu de souligner, les liens de sang tissés entre Sénégalais et Maliens. Le village de Mayel à Nioro du Sahel n'est-il pas le symbole de cette fraternité d'armes, de cette fraternité tout

court, lorsque l'armée de Alboury N'Diaye, roi du Djolof, vint prêter main forte à Cheickou Ahmadou contre les troupes du colonel Louis Archinard, le 30 décembre 1890. Le nombre des victimes recensées de cette mémorable bataille est de 9000 morts, Sénégalais et Maliens tombés sur le champ de l'honneur pour leur liberté. Dans la continuité de ce compagnonnage, nos soldats se côtoient aujourd'hui sur tous les fronts de maintien de la paix, sur le continent.

La célébration du 22 septembre est un moment idéal pour renouveler l'hommage de la Nation aux officiers, sous-officiers et militaires du rang maliens, en opération sous les drapeaux de l'ONU, de l'Union africaine et de la CEDEAO.

En même temps que nos soldats, en mission, loin de leurs familles, j'ai une pensée affectueuse et fraternelle pour tous les Maliens de l'extérieur. Je veux, ici, porter témoignage de leur regain d'intérêt pour le Mali qui leur offrira toujours l'opportunité de s'affirmer dans un environnement rassurant, pour leurs projets d'investissement.

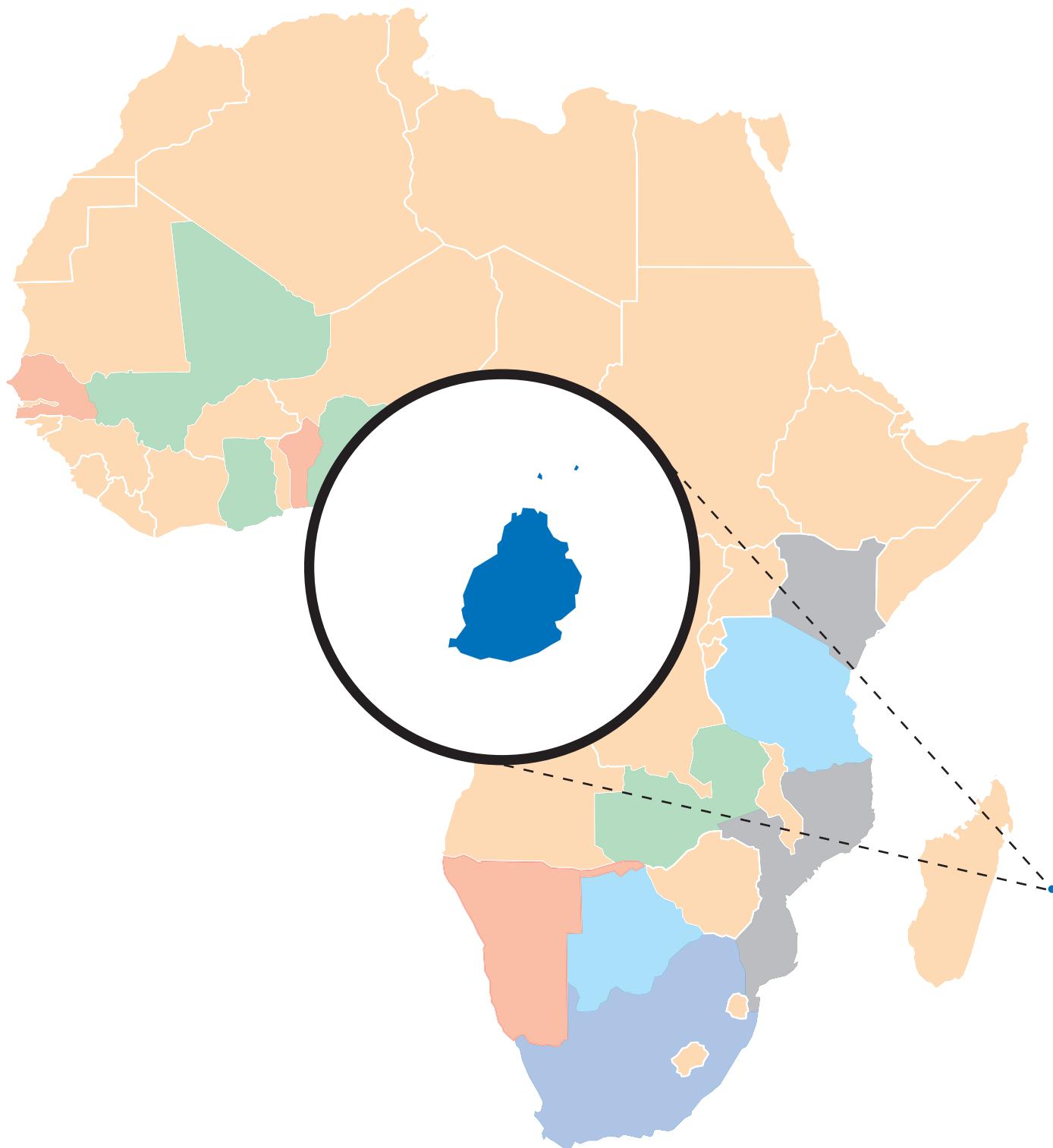
Pour célébrer ces 45 ans du Mali indépendant, nous avons décidé de mettre l'accent sur nos héros de la résistance, dont la lutte intrépide a balisé notre chemin vers la liberté.

La Nation témoigne, par la même occasion, sa reconnaissance aux organisations politiques, syndicales et aux mouvements de femmes qui ont porté à l'époque, avec courage et détermination, le message de l'émancipation; aux pères de l'Indépendance ainsi qu'à tous les aînés qui ont eu à conduire les premiers pas du nouvel État. Héritiers d'une si glorieuse tradition de combat, la fête de l'Indépendance doit demeurer pour nous une occasion privilégiée d'exprimer notre fierté d'être une nation unie, riche de la permanence de ses valeurs, de la qualité de ses hommes et femmes, ainsi que la diversité de sa culture.

Tels sont nos atouts pour relever les nombreux défis que nous impose un siècle complexe, au cours duquel notre pays saisira toutes ses chances. J'ai la conviction que notre peuple en a les moyens.

Vive le Mali dans une Afrique unie et en paix!

MAURITIUS



MAURITIUS



**State of the Nation Report by His
Excellency Navinchandra Ramgoolam,
Prime Minister of the Republic
of Mauritius
8 November 2005**



INTRODUCTION

It gives me great pleasure to be associated with the publication of the annual *African Leaders State of Africa Report*. For my first contribution to this report as prime minister, I would like to present to the readers of this publication the democratic principles and objectives governing the aspirations and prospects of my government for the people and the Republic of Mauritius.

On 3 July 2005, the people voted overwhelmingly for a change of government. Immediately upon assuming office, my government formulated development strategies on the premise that economic and social policies must subserve the primacy of the people, in particular the poor. The fundamental principle of the government is Putting People First.

The government believes that the fullest possible participation of the people in the development process is the best guarantee for the success of any growth strategy. The overriding objective of the government is ultimately to make the economy work for the people and not the people work for the economy.

The aim of the new government is to create a society where there are opportunities for all, a more inclusive society where there is equality of treatment before the law and by all agencies whether public or private. The government also aims at bringing in a new economic model through the democratization of the Mauritian economy.

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

In 2004, the Mauritian economy grew by 4.3 percent, while in 2005 the gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by 3.1 percent in view of contractions in sugar output and in the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) and relatively modest growth in the tourism and construction sectors.

Total public debt amounted to Rs. 105.5 billion (US\$1 is approximately equal to Rs. 29) in June 2005; this represented 57.7 percent of GDP.

After four years of surpluses, the current account of the balance of payments shows a deficit of Rs. 2.16 billion in 2004–2005. The deficit is forecast to rise sharply to Rs. 7.15 billion in 2005–2006.

Our trade deficit for 2004–2005 is estimated at Rs. 17.1 billion, up by 62 percent [from] the previous year. It is forecasted to reach Rs. 23.8 billion in 2005–2006. The overall balance of payments shows a deficit of Rs. 3.13 billion in 2004–2005 and is projected to post a deficit of Rs. 8.6 billion in 2005–2006. Such deteriorating trends in the external balance do not augur well for macroeconomic stability.

The investment rate has on average been about 22 percent during the past few years. In 2005, it is expected to be around 21.8 percent.

For the first seven months of 2005, the total number of tourist arrivals increased by 5 percent compared to the corresponding period in 2004. Tourism is expected to register a growth rate of 4.8 percent in 2005, with the total number of tourist arrivals reaching 755,000.

The total labour force in Mauritius grew at an annual average rate of 1.4 percent over the past four years. The total labour force was 549,600 at end June 2004, and it was estimated at around 556,700 at end June 2005. There are about 9,000 new entrants in the labour market each year. Total employment grew from 485,900 in 2000 to 506,200 in 2005. The unemployment rate reached 9.3 percent in June 2005.

The main goals of the new government are to fight unemployment, achieve external balance equilibrium, bring fiscal deficit to a reasonable share of GDP, and reduce public debt and infla-

tion to manageable levels. While consolidating the existing pillars of the Mauritian economy, the government will pursue its diversification through the establishment of new areas of development such as the exploration of marine resources. It will promote research, explore new avenues of growth such as oceanography, and tap alternative sources of energy. Greater importance will be given to technology, innovation, and human-capital development.

In order to stimulate the different sectors of the Mauritian economy, the government is adopting a series of measures. In particular, a new boost is being given to the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector. The cost of finance to microenterprise will be lowered. An Empowerment Fund with a government contribution of Rs. 200 million will be created to support SMEs. An SME Consultancy Services Scheme will be set up to provide consultancy support to SMEs. The government is also implementing a new strategy for infrastructure development, which brings together public-sector strategies, local authorities, and the private sector to invest in industrial estates for SMEs.

The government will also promote health tourism as well as business tourism through the marketing of Mauritius as a centre for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE).

To promote and facilitate investment in the Mauritian economy, a fast-track committee has been set up, under my chairmanship, to coordinate and speed up decisions on major investments and [to] eliminate red tape. A standing Investment Climate Improvement Committee will also be established to provide solutions to the difficulties faced in the starting and running of businesses. A Web-based facility for online submission and processing of applications is being developed and is expected to be operational shortly.

The government's economic democratization has a twofold objective. It intends to bring reforms to the national economic structure that will open the doors of economic opportunities to the population at large. This will in turn contribute to mobilizing the overall competitive advantage of the whole population to create more wealth.

The key to economic democratization is empowerment. The government aims at opening up and broadening the entrepreneurship base through a diversified range of empowerment initiatives. The government's objective on the democratization of the economy is to improve the efficiency of the economy through strategic objectives.

The government is proposing to redefine the role of the state from a facilitator-state to a state-agent of social change.

The government recognizes the importance of maintaining a stable macroeconomic environment, which is so critical to boosting investor confidence and fuelling investment.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Internal Security

The government of Mauritius is totally committed to fighting fraud and corruption. Mauritius is among those countries that place the interests, security, and welfare of its people at the centre of their socioeconomic policies. This can only be done with the promotion and respect of human rights and fundamental freedom, as well as the enforcement of efficient and effective law and order.

The government is fully conscious of the major role of the police in helping [to] create a congenial climate of peace and harmony conducive to social progress and economic development. It therefore intends to pursue the reforms initiated in 1999–2000 in the field of police training and institutional build-up.

External Security

Mauritius is committed to the fight against terrorism in cooperation with the international community. It is also in favour of the eventual complete elimination of all nuclear weapons based on a comprehensive and nondiscriminatory disarmament regime.

Mauritius is party to ten of the thirteen UN [United Nations] conventions and protocols

relating to terrorism and is signatory to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Mauritius is actively considering adhering to the two remaining ones, namely (i) the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and (ii) the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection. In its resolve to address terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, the government of the Republic of Mauritius has enacted the relevant pieces of legislation for the fulfilment of its commitment in implementing UNSC [United Nations Security Council] Resolution 1373 (2001).

In line with its commitment to nonproliferation and international peace and security, Mauritius recently signed the additional protocol of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mauritius has always been supportive of all initiatives designed to combat terrorism and strongly supports the recommendations of the outcome document of the UN Summit held in September 2005, in particular the recommendation to reach an agreement on a comprehensive international convention on terrorism. In the sidelines of the recent UNGA [United Nations General Assembly] meeting in New York, Mauritius has signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Mauritius equally endorses the principle of 'responsibility to protect' as a norm of collective action in cases of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.

Mauritius welcomes the agreement reached in June 2005 in New York on a politically binding international instrument on the tracing of small arms and light weapons, which will contribute in the fight against the illicit trade of these weapons in the world.

At the national level, Mauritius has established the legal framework to effectively deal with problems associated with illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Moreover, the mechanism to control firearms in Mauritius is elaborate and is of proven efficiency.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

Mauritius views regional cooperation as an important instrument for its economic development. In this regard, it is pursuing an active policy of integration through regional organizations such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Indian Ocean Commission (COI), and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC).

Mauritius is also an active member of the African Union and intends to participate fully in furthering the development agenda of the African continent.

Whilst relations with our traditional development and trade partners continue to feature prominently in the foreign policy of Mauritius, we intend to take vigorous steps towards the development of strategic partnerships with [the] member states of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations], as well as the Latin American countries.

SOCIAL WELFARE

On its assumption of office, the new government decided to expand the welfare state in Mauritius by providing free transportation to students and the elderly and [by] restoring old-age pensions to all senior citizens, again in line with the fundamental principle of the government's policy of Putting People First.

Education

Education is free in Mauritius at primary and secondary levels and at tertiary level for full-time students. With the change in government, the new priority of Mauritius is to provide for a world-class quality education, which will enable Mauritian youth to integrate new areas of an evolving economy. In this regard, the primary and secondary curricula are being reviewed so as to make them more responsive to both local and worldwide needs. As a logical extension of the

introduction of free secondary education in 1977, free public transport has been provided to students since 1 September 2005.

The focus will shift to the teaching of science and technology-based subjects, which is a prerequisite for making Mauritius a knowledge-based economy. Skills enhancement and vocational training are being given a new impetus as part of the universal provision for a world-class quality education. Mauritius is considering the setting up of new polytechnic schools, which will be known as 'Instituts de Formation et d'Education Tertiaire' and which will offer courses leading to a higher national diploma in areas such as tourism, agro-industry, and information technology.

At tertiary level, a new strategy for developing research programmes, which are responsive to the national needs of Mauritius, is under preparation. A white paper on the future of tertiary education will soon be published, [and] a human-resources-development plan is also under preparation.

The government of Mauritius aims at vigorously pursuing a policy of bringing education in[to] the economic fold through the establishment of international educational institutions in partnership with reputed international institutions to cater [to] overseas students, particularly those from the region. The overall objectives of the education systems of the country will be to produce men and women with the skills and attitudes that will enable the country to meet the challenges [it faces].

Science and Technology

The government of Mauritius is fully conscious of the importance of the new economy, including science and technology. The government is committed to encouraging all stakeholders in this sector to develop it into one of the pillars of the economy.

The aim of the government is to give a major boost to the teaching of science and technology at all levels so that Mauritians can participate fully in a knowledge-based economy and in research and development programmes in the agro-industrial, pharmaceutical, and other sectors.

The government will pursue a forward-looking strategy for the optimal development of the ICT [information and communications technology] sector, since it considers that ICT can increase national wealth [and] create new opportunities and jobs, as well as promote and democratize access to information. Measures will be taken to accelerate the deployment of broadband across Mauritius with a view to decentralizing the ICT- and IT-enabled services industry and encouraging the development of local content and creativity. Further, special programmes will be developed for the training of young Mauritians to increase their employability in the ICT sector and to meet the demands of the industry in terms of qualified manpower.

Steps will also be taken to propagate ICT culture, facilitate the emergence of an information society, and reduce the digital divide. A new approach to universal access will be adopted with a view to providing free Internet access to all schools, public libraries, and community centres and a common gateway for Internet connectivity to tertiary institutions.

Health Care, HIV/AIDS

The central priority of the new government is to provide universal, accessible, and efficient health services with emphasis on the concept of 'customer care'. In this regard, the required infrastructure will be set up so that each patient is served with compassion, efficiency, and courtesy. In order to revamp primary health care, the government will lay emphasis on a rigorous and efficient system of preventive health care through the delivery of specific services such as school health education and the larger dissemination of health information to the public. The government will also address the HIV/AIDS issue as a matter of the highest priority.

Poverty and Hunger

There is no doubt that poverty reduction and eradication must remain at the core of all development efforts towards a just and equitable order.

Uplifting people from poverty and endowing them with appropriate means to lead productive lives best guarantees long-term sustained social stability.

Similarly, Mauritius will do its utmost to pursue a people-centred development policy by tackling those national and transnational issues that have a direct impact on its people's welfare.

Mauritius adheres to the principles and primary goal of the United Nations to provide mankind with freedom from want, freedom from fear, and freedom to live in dignity. Mauritius pledges to play its part fully in this endeavour.

At the recent Clinton Global Initiative organized in the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, the government of Mauritius made an offer to organize an international conference on poverty and development.

The government is committed to poverty alleviation and will ensure that its economic democratization programme benefits all citizens. Its aim is to promote the integration of the vulnerable groups in the mainstream of development, foster inclusion, and contribute to the nation-building process.

In order to achieve higher efficiency and effectiveness in the national fight against poverty, the government will ensure that there is greater synergy and coordination in its poverty-reduction strategies and programmes.

Housing

The housing policy of Mauritius is guided by the objective of providing a home [for] each family. This goal is attained through government intervention in the process of facilitating access to housing for the lower socioeconomic strata of the population as well as through the provision of incentives for increased private-sector involvement in the housing sector.

Drug Abuse

In line with its commitment to fighting drug abuse, Mauritius hosted, from 14 to 15 December 2004, the Second African Union

Ministerial Conference on Drug Control. The conference was attended by a number of African Union member states, as well as representatives of United Nations agencies and other international organizations, bilateral and multilateral agencies, NGOs [nongovernmental organizations], and civil-society organizations. Its deliberations centred on the theme 'Mainstreaming Drug Control into Socioeconomic Development in Africa'.

Mauritius also hosted, from 21 to 24 August 2005, the Twenty-first Conference of the International Federation of Nongovernmental Organizations, which was attended by representatives of thirty-five countries, including the United States. The theme of the conference was 'Mobilizing Community Resources to Prevent Drug and Substance Abuse'. A major event during the conference was the launching of the African Cities Against Drugs (AFROCAD), [along] the lines of the Asian Cities Against Drugs (ACAD). The purpose of AFROCAD is to promote and develop, through democratic means, the fight against drugs and to provide experience and knowledge about the work against drugs and drug abuse at the local, national, and international levels. The long-term aim of AFROCAD is to contribute to an Africa free [of] drugs, whether 'hard' or 'soft'.

It is the intention of the government to appoint a drug commissioner to oversee all action undertaken by government departments and other agencies and institutions to combat drug use and trafficking.

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Mauritius is fully committed to the cause of environmental protection as an essential component of its economic development policy.

The National Environment Commission, under my chairmanship, is the apex policy-making body. The National Environment Action Plans and accompanying Environment Investment Programmes for the past two decades have enabled the implementation of priority programmes and projects geared at protecting and

restoring the environment. Through the necessary institutional and legal framework, Mauritius will ensure that it fulfils its obligations under various multilateral environmental agreements, especially on chemicals, biodiversity, climate change, sea level rise, ozone, and hazardous wastes.

As a small-island, developing state, Mauritius will give due consideration to resource accounting and the development of vulnerability and sustainability indices. The effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small-Island Developing States will contribute to enhancing the resilience of the country.

The government is also committed to upgrading the physical environment across Mauritius in order to improve [the] quality of life and the aesthetic and social values of the environment.

At the recent United Nations General Assembly, Mauritius joined other countries in placing emphasis on environment sustainability and on the urgent necessity to undertake global action to mitigate the effects of climate change. Mauritius reiterates the call for urgent action to arrest the emission of CFC [chlorofluorocarbon] gases, which, according to experts, have already reached dangerous levels. Mauritius welcomes the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and believes that it is imperative that all countries subscribe to it as soon as possible.

Mauritius also welcomes the efforts by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to set up a global network of tsunami early-warning systems across the world.

BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MAURITIUS AND THE UNITED STATES

Diplomatic relations between Mauritius and the United States date back to 1794. Through the years, the relations between the two countries have been strengthened. These have been given a new impetus with the adoption of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Both Mauritius and the United States share common

values, such as resolute commitment to democracy and the rule of law, promotion of the private sector, and market-driven economies.

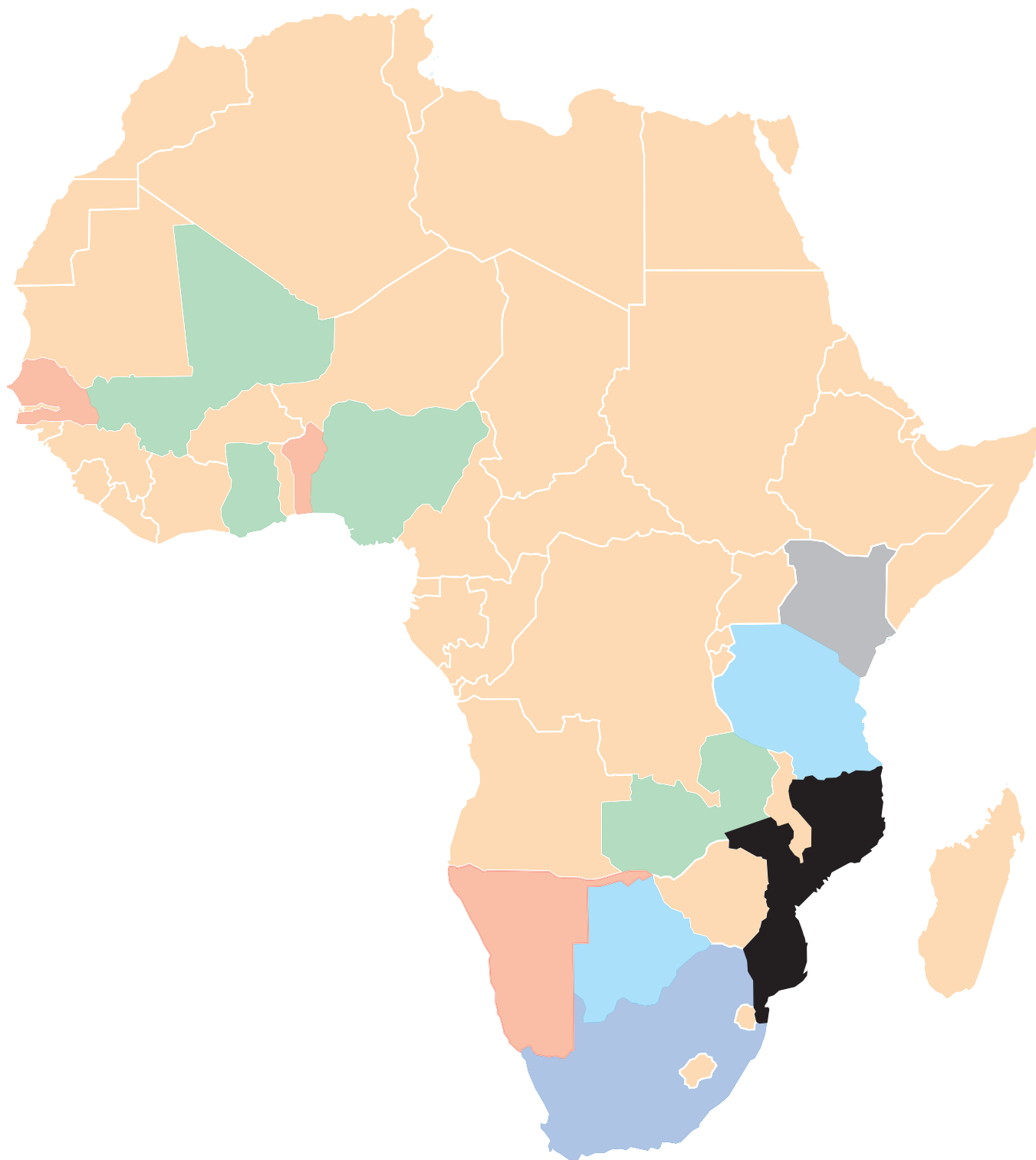
The United States is at present the third-largest export market of Mauritius and constitutes an important market for its apparel exports. In 2004, Mauritian exports to the United States amounted to Rs. 7.9 billion, representing 15.4 percent of its total exports.

Mauritius proposes to engage the United States with a view to enhancing and deepening the bilateral relations between the two countries through exchanges on a number of issues, including trade, security, agriculture, and education.

CONCLUSION

The government of Mauritius is strongly committed to national unity and nation-building, and remains guided by the principle of Putting People First. In the region, Mauritius will continue playing an active role in promoting regional cooperation and, at the international level, Mauritius will continue orienting its diplomatic endeavours towards the preservation and promotion of its economic interests through collaboration with its partners.

MOZAMBIQUE



MOZAMBIQUE



**Address to the Nation, *Our Mission:*
To Fight Poverty, on the Occasion of
 the Inauguration of His Excellency
 Armando Emilio Guebuza as President
 of the Republic of Mozambique
 February 2, 2005
 Maputo**



It is with great emotion that I address the people of Mozambique and the world following my inauguration as the president of the Republic of Mozambique, president of all the Mozambicans.

As we take up this high position of head of state, we would like to express our gratitude to the people of Mozambique for the trust they have bestowed in our program and vision and in our ability to turn them into realities. We want, thus, to reiterate before you all our solemn commitment to do our level best to continue to deserve the trust you have granted us and to live up to the just and legitimate expectations we aroused in the course of our electoral campaign.

We would like to convey our profound appreciation for the presence here of foreign dignitaries and distinguished fellow citizens and to express our heartfelt acknowledgment of your magnanimous gesture of attaching priority to this historical occasion for our country, taking time out of your busy schedules to attend this ceremony. We would like to welcome in particular the heads of state and government and their representatives, including the representatives of international organizations as well as other distinguished personalities whose presence lends a transcendent dimension to this event and is a symbol of your continued friendship and solidarity toward Mozambique and the Mozambicans.

We would also like to salute the participation of the distinguished representatives of all the provinces of our country and the participation of the illustrious representatives of the civil society. They bring with them the expectations and hopes of our people.

We are grateful for the numerous messages of congratulation we have received from national

and foreign entities both public and private. We would also like to highlight the role that the media have played in the consolidation of our democratic process and in our social and economic development. In particular, we want to highlight their role in this ceremony: by exploiting the possibilities offered by information and communication technologies, they are able to relay to the districts and other distant areas of our country and to the world the images and stories of this event, thus making it possible for more Mozambicans and other interested people to follow this ceremony, this landmark in the political life of our beloved country.

A special salutation goes to the heads of our communities throughout the country who have succeeded in playing a vanguard role as depositories of our history and culture. They have been contributing decisively to the restoration of the social fabric in Mozambique.

We are short of words to describe the life and work of our predecessor, His Excellency President Joaquim Alberto Chissano, to whom we would like to pay a special tribute. From an early age, he embraced with determination and bravery the cause of the people of Mozambique, their freedom and dignity. A political leader always devoted to his people, His Excellency President Joaquim Alberto Chissano is without doubt the peacemaker in Mozambique, the leader who gave a significant boost to the spirit of tolerance and understanding and who took a lead in the process of national reconciliation.

It was with him that we deepened the democracy that we have been nurturing since the formation of FRELIMO [Liberation Front of Mozambique], laying the foundations for the multiparty system to be established in the country. It was under his leadership that press pluralism and diversity in Mozambique came into being, and greater participation of civil society in the development of the country was encouraged.

With His Excellency Joaquim Alberto Chissano, our country moved out of the prevailing emergency situation onto the path of social and economic development. This achievement was possible thanks to his enlightened leadership,

the work of Mozambicans, partnerships with national and foreign investors, and international solidarity. Under his leadership, Mozambique's international prestige grew, and the country became a mandatory reference among the concert of nations.

It is this personality that we have the hard yet noble task of succeeding, carrying on with his work and that of his government. We refer to the work that was inspired by our ancestors' desire to be free and prosperous, the work that Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane assumed and that Samora Moisés Machel creatively continued.

To His Excellency Joaquim Alberto Chissano, we would like to express our certainty that we will continue to count on your wisdom and experience, accumulated over all these years of total devotion to our people. As you leave the high office of the president of the republic, we want to wish you good health and a long life.

In the distant year of 1962, the Mozambican people decided to take decisive steps to free themselves from foreign domination, an indispensable move to start the fight against poverty, which was rampant in Mozambique. This decision heralded a profound change of attitude, as Mozambicans showed the world that as a people they would take charge of their own destiny. FRELIMO, which was the movement around which the people rallied, represented not only a cry for freedom, independence, and welfare, but it also transformed itself into a symbol of sovereignty and the greater self-esteem of the people.

With President Eduardo Mondlane, we learned that by standing united from the Rovuma to Maputo we could defeat foreign domination. With each victory over the sophisticated colonial war machinery, we would strengthen our conviction that only if we stood united could we turn our dream of freeing ourselves from foreign domination into a reality and resolutely start the fight against poverty. As we forged national unity out of our linguistic, ethnic, regional, and racial diversity, building on our pride in being Mozambicans and patriots devoted to the cause of the people, we found unfaltering strength and the resilience to move forward. We found the

inspiration and determination to surmount any hurdle so that this dream could come true.

The teachings of Mondlane were inherited and refined by Samora, who, with the firmness of a commander, took the ship to a good port. In 1975, he proclaimed national independence, and he led the process of building the Mozambican state until his assassination in Mbuzini.

It was then incumbent upon Chissano to take up the banner and to continue to inspire and lead our people on the path toward turning that dream into reality. Today, slowly but steadily, that dream is coming true: stone by stone we are building a new dawn, with each day brighter than the previous one.

Today we assume the helm of the destinies of the people of Mozambique for the next five years, to continue step by step to realize our dream. This is a distant dream but not a far-fetched one. It is a dream that there should not be any Mozambican, regardless of his or her political affiliation, religious belief, ethnic origin, race, gender, age, or physical condition, unable through his or her own work to provide for himself or herself and dependents a set of basic conditions for their subsistence and welfare, with dignity.

We know what we want, and we know how to realize such a dream. We have hardworking people who have already proven to be enterprising and devoted to Mozambique. We have a country endowed with many resources. What we have already achieved reinforces our conviction that we can overcome poverty in Mozambique.

Therefore, what we are going to demand of ourselves is not just to walk but to move faster. What we will concern ourselves with is constantly improving our record, our performance. We will concern ourselves with translating into concrete results every act related to the exercise of power and every interaction with our people, who are the source of our inspiration and the first and ultimate beneficiaries of our governance. For this reason, and as the force for change, we will inculcate a faster pace to our march toward the better future we all long for.

For us, the promotion of welfare has no limit, and therefore we should wage an unrelenting

fight against poverty. This is the reason behind our commitment to work hard and with determination to fulfill the promises we made during the electoral campaign. Of those promises, we will highlight some, as they were widely and clearly communicated to Mozambicans. These are promises in which we believe, promises that can be realized with the commitment and participation of all Mozambicans. These promises are aimed at building a Mozambique for all of us, a Mozambique that all of us can be proud of.

In the context of our government program, integrated rural development will be one of our areas of focus. We will spare no efforts to ensure a speedy establishment of economic and social infrastructures so as to equip the rural areas with better living conditions and to make them more productive.

Special attention will be given to technical and vocational training in order to foster self-employment and meet the needs of local and national development.

Another priority of the government will be the promotion of gender equity, granting greater visibility to women among the actors who create wealth in the country.

Due attention will be accorded to youth, the lifeblood of our nation, through the development of training, employment, and housing policies, and by raising the consciousness of the young about their responsibility to the future of Mozambique. We count on their proven dynamism and their active participation in a change of attitude and in the fight against poverty.

We will do our best to support national entrepreneurship so that it becomes strong, more enterprising, and more competitive so as to contribute more decisively to the growth of national wealth. We are hopeful that our national entrepreneurship will also play a dynamic role in attracting foreign investors to participate in the development of our country. Special attention will be paid to small and medium enterprises, given their greater potential for increasing job opportunities and state revenue and for reducing regional asymmetries, among other advantages.

We would like to salute especially the investors in megaprojects established in our country for the contribution they make to the economy and for the positive image of Mozambique they convey to the outside world. We will continue to attract other projects of great dimension and facilitate their establishment and operation in our country.

Civil society is also our partner in combating poverty. We count on their continued and unwavering participation in social and economic programs that will improve the living standards of Mozambicans.

Some of the major obstacles to be surmounted so that our march toward development is smooth and unobstructed have already been identified: red tape, apathy, crime, corruption, and epidemic diseases.

For the successful fulfillment of its program, the government will demand that civil servants straighten up and improve their attitude toward work: the dynamics that we want to see in the provision of public services to the citizens does not include the red tape and the apathy found in some civil servants. We will strive for a public service that will give impetus to development, through greater productivity of its officials, whose key function is to support, help, and facilitate all transactions of individuals and institutions. It is important that civil servants improve the efficiency of the service rendered to the public in offices, schools, hospitals, and clinics, with strict respect for the law and their professional obligations.

We are not demanding anything new. In the past, our civil servants succeeded in rendering exemplary service to citizens despite the prevailing professional and material constraints. We would therefore like to see them take on the leadership of the ongoing public-sector reform [and to see] that they have more respect for citizens. Greater productivity of our public sector would certainly ensue from this better interaction with the public, thus making it more active in the fight against poverty.

Crime and corruption are insidious enemies that insist on insinuating themselves in our midst and on presenting themselves as alternative routes to wealth. They erode the citizens' trust

in institutions and undermine all efforts aimed at enhancing efficiency and efficacy in public service and at strengthening a society in which the values of justice, good manners, ethics, and respect for human life and the rights and freedom of citizens prevail. Thus the fight against this malaise will constitute a central point on our agenda. In this connection, the government will strive to strengthen the institutions responsible for public security and the administration of justice throughout the country, doing its best to provide them with the necessary human, material, and financial resources. In particular, we will encourage the courts to be more expeditious in settling conflicts and restoring the rights of individuals and corporations when they are breached and in consolidating professional ethics and professional deontology.

Our determination in the fight against endemic diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS, and cyclic diseases such as cholera is complete. It is a fight that cannot be undertaken by the health authorities alone: the government as a whole and society have important roles to play.

We need to improve our capacity to respond to natural calamities such as cyclones, floods—which right now are affecting parts of our territory—and drought. Our government will concern itself with increasing the national capacity in human and material resources for forecasting, warning about, and managing the impact of these calamities. We must at the same time foster the patriotic and national spirit of solidarity to support the people who fall victim to these calamities.

Mozambique is at peace, a political environment that is clearly an achievement of all Mozambicans who have learned how to put aside their differences and rally around the national interest, which is the need to place the country, in peace, on the road to development and to revere the multicolor flag that stands for us all and of which we are proud. It is these Mozambicans, either individually as ordinary citizens or as eminent personalities, organized either in civic associations or in political parties, who glorify this

peace, and day by day they renew their commitment to consolidating it through words and deeds as a common good, a precious and indispensable asset for the life of the Mozambican nation.

The passion of Mozambicans for peace informs their passion for democracy. Democracy is, we can say, an important fertilizer that enables the tree of peace to continue to grow and deepen its roots, always watered and protected by all of us, for we all benefit from its magnificent shade.

We are hopeful that the opposition parties and their leaders will emerge as important partners in this process of consolidation of peace, democracy, and the rule of law that we are building. By the same token, we exhort and appeal to the associations, the religious groups, the press, and other influential personalities in our society to be more and more active in the consolidation of these and other values of Mozambican identity throughout the country.

As we have repeatedly stated and would like to reaffirm here, the victory over poverty is first and foremost the responsibility of Mozambicans. Thus we would like to reiterate our invitation to everyone to get engaged in this noble mission; no one should shy away from this historical responsibility that we all bear. Mozambique belongs to us, and therefore it is our duty to build a strong country. We can establish the most varied development partnerships and optimize the existing ones, but what we cannot do is delegate this opportunity for a new era of liberation to somebody else.

We are convinced that the international cooperating partners that have been by our side will feel more encouraged to support us if they realize that our commitment to fight poverty is unreserved. For our part, we undertake to strengthen and diversify the channels of dialogue, coordination, and facilitation, and to broaden the space for intervention for the men and women of goodwill who want the best for their people, the best for the people of Mozambique.

A special word goes to our compatriots in the diaspora, who since the last elections have inaugurated a new era in their relationship with their beloved country. It is our expectation that this new framework will inspire them to multiply the

initiatives to support the social and economic development of the country and to disseminate abroad our achievements, our history, and our culture. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all their host countries for the hospitality accorded to them. In particular, we would like to thank those countries where voting took place, on December 1 and 2, for all the facilities made available so that they could vote.

In the international arena, we will continue to abide by the principles of respect for independence and the sovereign equality of states.

To the South African Development Community (SADC), our regional organization, we would like to reiterate our commitment to the process of political, economic, social, and cultural integration of southern Africa. We will play our part so that this project is completed for the benefit of all our peoples and countries.

We would like to reiterate Mozambique's adherence to the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and in the Charter of the United Nations Organization.

We consider the objectives under which the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) is founded as current and key to approaching the peoples of the member states. Therefore our government will continue to render its best support so that CPLP can increase the benefits for our peoples and countries, and continue to play an increasing role in the international arena.

Mozambique will honor the commitments undertaken by the FRELIMO government with international partners both at bilateral and multilateral levels, including the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Commonwealth, the African, Caribbean, and Pacific states, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, and the Arab Bank for Development in Africa. We would like to reiterate our call for your support in this mammoth challenge of consolidating peace and stability and of fighting poverty.

We would like to take this opportunity to salute the international solidarity movement with Africa as the continent strives to fight poverty

and to move out of marginalization. In various quarters of the world, funds were established and initiatives promoted with the view of supporting or complementing the efforts being made by the African people in the context of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). We encourage these initiatives and would like to see them conferring on Africans more capacity to develop our continent.

In the next few days, the cabinet that will have the responsibility for our vision and programmatic objectives, as endorsed by the Mozambican people through popular vote, will be announced. Our goal is that this cabinet will be composed of personalities governed by dignifying principles and values:

- commitment to our manifesto;
- patriotism and national unity and inclusiveness in their governance;
- humility, love, and respect for our people, and commitment to render them increasingly better services;
- commitment to fight intrigue;
- professionalism, creativity, and devotion to work;
- respect for gender equality;
- participatory democracy and the culture of peace;
- transparent management of public assets and a culture of accountability; and
- commitment to strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the Mozambican people and other peoples of the world and between Mozambique and other states and international institutions.

These personalities will have the task of ensuring that such values and principles guide government activities at all levels, thus allowing for a more active participation by all the people in the fulfillment of our program: we want the style of "open presidency" to be replicated at all levels so that our people can follow every step of the contribution that each member of the government and institutions is making in the fight against poverty.

Once again we would like to thank our foreign guests. Your presence constitutes an occasion for us to strengthen our ties with the peoples and institutions that you represent. We would like to express our gratitude to the organizers of this ceremony, to the religious denominations, the cultural groups, the press, the security and protocol staff, the drivers, the servants, and all those others who have contributed to making this ceremony possible.

Let us depart to confront this new challenge convinced that if each and every one of us plays his or her part in this undertaking, if each and every one of us rolls up his or her sleeves, poverty will be overcome in this pearl of the Indian Ocean.

Best wishes, and thank you very much!

MOÇAMBIQUE

A Nossa Missão: O Combate Contra a

Pobreza, Comunicação à Nação e ao

Mundo por sua Excelência Armando

Emilio Guebuza por Ocasão da sua

Investidura como Presidente da

República de Moçambique

2 de Fevereiro de 2005

Maputo

É com muita emoção que nos dirigimos ao Povo Moçambicano e ao mundo, depois da nossa investidura no cargo de Presidente da República de Moçambique, Presidente de todos os moçambicanos.

Ao assumirmos a alta magistratura do nosso Estado queremos endereçar palavras de agradecimento ao Povo Moçambicano pela confiança que depositou no nosso programa e visão e na nossa capacidade para a sua materialização. Queremos, pois, reiterar, perante todos vós, o compromisso solene de tudo fazermos para continuarmos a merecer a confiança que depositaram em nós e para correspondermos às justas e legítimas expectativas que despertamos ao longo da nossa campanha eleitoral.

Gostaríamos de registar a nossa profunda gratidão pela presença dos altos dignitários estrangeiros e dos distintos compatriotas e expressar o nosso sincero reconhecimento ao vosso magnânimo gesto de priorizarem este momento histórico do nosso País, nas vossas agendas, para a nós se juntarem nesta celebração. Queremos saudar, de forma particular, os Chefes de Estado e de Governo e seus representantes, os dirigentes de organismos internacionais, bem assim outras destacadas personalidades, cuja

presença empresta a este acto uma dimensão de reconhecida transcendência, símbolo da sua contínua amizade e solidariedade para com Moçambique e os moçambicanos.

Saudamos igualmente a presença dos distintos cidadãos vindos de todas as províncias do nosso País e os ilustres representantes da sociedade civil. Eles são portadores das expectativas e da esperança do nosso Povo.

Agradecemos as inúmeras mensagens de felicitações que nos foram endereçadas, por entidades nacionais e estrangeiras, públicas e privadas. Queremos também destacar o papel que tem sido desempenhado pelos órgãos da comunicação social na consolidação do nosso processo democrático e de desenvolvimento económico e social. Em particular, saudamos o seu papel nesta cerimónia: explorando as possibilidades que as tecnologias de informação e comunicação oferecem, os profissionais da comunicação social conseguem transportar para os distritos e para as zonas distantes do nosso País e do mundo as imagens e os relatos deste acto, permitindo assim, que mais moçambicanos, bem como outros interessados acompanhem o desenrolar desta cerimónia, deste importante marco na vida política na nossa Pátria Amada.

Uma saudação especial vai para os dirigentes das nossas comunidades, pelo País inteiro, que têm sabido assumir o seu papel de vanguarda e de depositários da nossa história e da nossa cultura, rica na sua diversidade. Eles têm contribuído de forma decisiva para a reconstituição do tecido social em Moçambique.

Faltam-nos palavras para caracterizar a vida e obra do nosso predecessor, Sua Excelência Presidente Joaquim Alberto Chissano, a quem gostaríamos de prestar uma singela homenagem. Desde muito jovem, ele abraçou, com determinação e bravura, a causa do Povo Moçambicano pela sua libertação e dignidade. Dirigente político sempre dedicado ao seu Povo, Sua Excelência Presidente Joaquim Chissano é reconhecidamente o obreiro da Paz em Moçambique, o dirigente que deu um significativo impulso ao espírito de tolerância e da concórdia. Foi igualmente ele quem

providenciou liderança ao processo de reconciliação nacional.

Foi com ele que aprofundamos a democracia que vínhamos cultivando desde a fundação da FRELIMO, criando as condições para a abertura do País ao multipartidarismo. Foi sob sua direcção que Moçambique alargou a diversidade e o pluralismo na imprensa e incentivou uma maior participação da sociedade civil no desenvolvimento do País.

Com Sua Excelência Presidente Joaquim Alberto Chissano, o nosso País saiu da situação de emergência em que se encontrava mergulhado e colocou-se na senda do desenvolvimento económico e social. Este estágio foi possível graças à sua clarividente liderança, à entrega dos moçambicanos ao trabalho, às parcerias com os investidores nacionais e estrangeiros e à solidariedade internacional.

Sob sua liderança Moçambique aumentou o seu prestígio internacional passando a ser uma referência obrigatória no concerto das nações.

É esta personalidade que temos a difícil mas nobre missão de suceder e continuar a sua obra e a do seu Governo. Referimo-nos à obra inspirada na vontade dos nossos antepassados de serem livres e prósperos, uma obra assumida por Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane e criativamente continuada por Samora Moisés Machel.

A Sua Excelência Senhor Presidente Chissano, queremos manifestar a nossa certeza plena de que iremos continuar a contar com a Vossa sabedoria e experiência, acumuladas ao longo de todos estes anos, inteiramente dedicados ao seu Povo. Queremos, neste momento em que cessa as funções de Presidente da República desejar-lhe muita saúde e longa vida.

No longínquo ano de 1962, o Povo Moçambicano decidiu dar passos decisivos para se libertar da dominação estrangeira, um passo imprescindível para dar início ao combate à pobreza que grassava Moçambique. Esta decisão encerrava uma profunda mudança de atitude, com os moçambicanos a demonstrarem ao mundo que, como um Povo, passavam a assumir-se responsáveis pelos seus próprios destinos. A FRELIMO, o movimento à volta do qual se

organizaram, não só se constituía num grito pela liberdade, independência e bem-estar, como também se transformava num símbolo de soberania e de maior auto-estima de um Povo.

Com o Presidente Eduardo Mondlane aprendemos que, unidos do Rovuma ao Maputo, poderíamos vencer a dominação estrangeira. Em cada vitória sobre a sofisticada máquina de guerra colonial, reforçávamos a convicção de que só unidos é que poderíamos materializar o nosso sonho de nos vermos livre da dominação estrangeira e caminhar, decididamente, na luta contra a pobreza. Na forja da Unidade Nacional, na nossa rica diversidade linguística, étnica, regional e racial, no nosso orgulho de sermos moçambicanos e patriotas dedicados à causa do Povo encontramos a força e a pujança inquebrantáveis para avançarmos. Encontramos a inspiração e a determinação para ultrapassarmos qualquer obstáculo, rumo à materialização desse sonho.

Os ensinamentos de Mondlane foram herdados e aprimorados por Samora que, com a firmeza de um comandante, soube levar o seu barco a bom porto. Em 1975 proclamou a Independência Nacional e dirigiu o processo da construção do Estado Moçambicano até ao seu assassinato em Mbuzini.

Coube depois a Chissano a tarefa de empunhar o estandarte e continuar a inspirar e guiar o nosso Povo no caminho de tornar esse sonho uma realidade. Hoje, paulatina e seguramente, concretiza-se esse sonho: pedra a pedra, estamos construindo um novo dia, um dia mais risonho que o anterior.

Hoje assumimos a liderança dos destinos do Povo Moçambicano para, nos próximos cinco anos, passo a passo, continuarmos a materializar o seu sonho. Trata-se de um sonho distante mas realizável. Trata-se de um sonho de que não haja nenhum moçambicano, independentemente da sua filiação política, crença religiosa, origem étnica ou racial, género, idade ou condição física, que não seja capaz de assegurar, com o seu trabalho, para si e para os seus dependentes um conjunto de condições básicas para a sua subsistência e bem-estar, com dignidade.

Sabemos o que queremos e sabemos como realizar esse sonho. Temos um Povo trabalhador que já deu provas de empreendedor e dedicação a Moçambique. Temos um País dotado de muitos recursos. As vitórias e os resultados já alcançados reforçam a nossa convicção de que podemos vencer a pobreza em Moçambique.

Por isso, o que nos vamos exigir a nós mesmos não é andar, mas acelerar mais o passo. É preocuparmo-nos em melhorar constantemente os nossos tempos, o nosso desempenho. É preocuparmo-nos em traduzir, em resultados concretos, cada acto de exercício da governação e cada interacção com o nosso Povo, a fonte da nossa inspiração, o primeiro e último beneficiário da nossa acção governativa. É por isso que, como Força da Mudança, devemos imprimir um ritmo mais acelerado à marcha rumo ao Futuro Melhor que todos almejamos.

Para nós, a promoção do bem-estar não tem limite e, por isso, o nosso combate contra a pobreza também não deve ter tréguas. Eis a razão do nosso compromisso de trabalharmos decidida e arduamente para cumprir com as promessas que fizemos durante a campanha eleitoral. Dessas promessas apenas destacaremos algumas nervuras, porquanto elas foram já larga e claramente apresentadas aos moçambicanos. São promessas em que acreditamos, promessas realizáveis, com o engajamento, contribuição e entrega de todos os moçambicanos. São promessas que visam a construção de um Moçambique para todos, um Moçambique de que todos nós nos possamos orgulhar.

No contexto do nosso programa de governação, o desenvolvimento rural integrado será uma das nossas maiores apostas. Envidaremos esforços para um mais célere estabelecimento de infra-estruturas económicas e sociais básicas, para dotar o meio rural de melhores condições de vida e torná-lo mais produtivo.

Particular atenção será dada à formação técnico-profissional virada para responder às necessidades do desenvolvimento local e do País e para o auto-emprego.

Constituirá igualmente prioridade do nosso Governo a promoção do género, garantindo-se à mulher a sua maior visibilidade no conjunto dos actores que produzem a riqueza nacional.

Especial atenção será dedicada à juventude, a seiva da nação, na materialização de políticas de formação, de emprego e de habitação e à elevação da sua consciência sobre a responsabilidade que têm pelo futuro de Moçambique. Contamos com o seu comprovado dinamismo e a sua activa participação na mudança de atitude e no combate à pobreza.

Vamo-nos empenhar no apoio ao empresariado nacional para que ele seja mais forte, mais empreendedor e mais competitivo, de forma a contribuir decisivamente para o aumento da riqueza nacional. Temos esperança de que o nosso empresariado também contribuirá na dinamização da atracção do investimento estrangeiro para participar no desenvolvimento do nosso País. Especial atenção será dada às pequenas e médias empresas dado o seu maior potencial para o aumento de postos de trabalho, das receitas do Estado e para a redução das assimetrias, entre outras vantagens.

Queremos saudar de forma especial os investidores nos megaprojectos implantados no nosso País pela contribuição que dão à nossa economia e pela imagem positiva que difundem sobre Moçambique. Continuaremos a atrair outros projectos de grande dimensão e a facilitar o seu estabelecimento e funcionamento no nosso País.

A sociedade civil é também nossa parceira no combate contra a pobreza. Dela esperamos a sua continuada e irreticente participação com programas sociais e económicos para elevar o nível de vida dos moçambicanos.

Alguns dos grandes obstáculos a transpor para que a nossa marcha rumo ao desenvolvimento seja livre e desimpedida já foram identificados: o burocratismo, o espírito de deixa-andar, o crime, a corrupção e as doenças endémicas.

Para o sucesso no cumprimento do seu programa, o Governo vai exigir dos funcionários públicos uma melhoria da sua postura e atitude,

perante o trabalho: a dinâmica que se pretende empreender na prestação de serviços públicos ao cidadão não se compadece com o burocratismo e o espírito de deixa-andar que caracteriza a atitude e postura de alguns funcionários do Estado. Irei-nos bater por uma administração pública que impulse o desenvolvimento, através de uma maior produtividade dos seus funcionários, que têm por tarefa central agilizar e facilitar todas as transacções de pessoas singulares e colectivas. Impõe-se que os funcionários melhorem a sua eficiência no atendimento ao público, nas repartições públicas, nas escolas, nos postos de saúde e hospitais, no estrito respeito pelas leis e pelas suas obrigações profissionais.

Não estamos a exigir nada de novo. No passado, os nossos funcionários públicos conseguiram garantir um serviço exemplar para os cidadãos, apesar dos constrangimentos profissionais e materiais então prevalentes. Queremos, por isso, que se assumam como líderes na reforma do sector público em curso e que tenham um maior respeito pelos cidadãos. Desta melhor interacção com o público certamente que resultará uma maior produtividade do nosso sector público, tornando-se, deste modo, mais activo no combate contra a pobreza.

O crime e a corrupção são inimigos insidiosos que insistem em se incrustar no nosso seio e se apresentam como meios alternativos de enriquecimento. Carcomem a confiança dos cidadãos nas instituições e minam todos os esforços tendentes a melhorar a eficácia e a eficiência da administração pública. Impedem igualmente o esforço para se consolidar uma sociedade em que imperem os valores da justiça, civismo, da ética, do respeito pela vida humana e pelos direitos e liberdades dos cidadãos. Por isso a luta contra estes males constituirá um dos pontos centrais da nossa agenda. Neste contexto, o Governo irá pugnar pelo reforço das instituições de manutenção da segurança pública e da administração da justiça, a nível de todo o País, lutando por dotá-los dos necessários recursos humanos, materiais e financeiros. Em particular, iremos encorajar os tribunais a

serem mais céleres a dirimir os conflitos e a repor os direitos de pessoas singulares e colectivas violados, a consolidar a ética e a deontologia profissionais.

A nossa determinação no combate às doenças endémicas, tais como a malária, a tuberculose e o HIV/SIDA, e às cíclicas, como a cólera, é total. Trata-se de um combate que não deve ser levado a cabo apenas pelas autoridades da saúde: o governo, como um todo, e a sociedade têm um papel importante a desempenhar.

Temos que melhorar a nossa capacidade de resposta às calamidades naturais como são os casos das secas, dos ciclones e das cheias que agora assolam partes do nosso território. O nosso Governo vai preocupar-se em aumentar a capacidade nacional em recursos humanos e materiais para previsão, aviso e gestão do impacto dessas calamidades. Temos, ao mesmo tempo, que continuar a fomentar o espírito patriótico e de solidariedade nacional para apoio às populações vítimas dessas calamidades.

Moçambique está em Paz, um ambiente político que é declaradamente uma conquista de todos os moçambicanos, moçambicanos que souberam pôr de lado as suas diferenças e unirem-se à volta do interesse nacional, que é a necessidade de lançar o País, em paz, na rota do desenvolvimento, e da bandeira multicolor que a todos nós cobre e nos orgulha. São estes moçambicanos, individualmente como cidadãos anónimos ou figuras influentes, ou organizados em associações cívicas ou partidos políticos que exaltam esta Paz e, no seu dia a dia, renovam o seu compromisso de consolidá-la, em actos e em palavras, como um bem comum, precioso e indispensável para a vida de toda a Nação Moçambicana.

A paixão dos moçambicanos pela Paz, informa a sua paixão pela democracia. A democracia é, por assim dizer, um importante fertilizante que faz com que a árvore da Paz não pare de crescer e de se enraizar, sempre regada e protegida por todos nós, pois da sua frondosa sombra todos desfrutamos.

É nossa expectativa que os partidos da oposição e seus líderes saberão assumir-se como

importantes parceiros neste processo de consolidação da Paz e aprofundamento da democracia e do Estado de Direito que estamos a construir. No mesmo contexto, exortamos e apelamos às associações, às confissões religiosas, à imprensa e às outras figuras influentes na sociedade, a manterem-se cada vez mais activos na consolidação destes e de outros valores da moçambicanidade, a nível de todo o País.

Como sempre o dissemos, e aqui o reafirmamos, a vitória sobre a pobreza é, em primeiro lugar, da responsabilidade dos moçambicanos. Assim, reiteramos o nosso convite para que todos se engajem nesta exaltante missão e que ninguém se furte desta responsabilidade histórica que recai sobre todos nós. Moçambique é nosso, por isso, nós é que o devemos construir. Podemos, para o efeito, constituir as mais diversas parcerias de desenvolvimento e potenciar as já existentes, mas não podemos delegar a outrem esta oportunidade da nova epopeia de libertação.

Estamos convictos de que os nossos parceiros internacionais de cooperação, que têm estado connosco, sentir-se-ão cada vez mais animados a apoiar-nos quando constatarem que, do nosso lado, o compromisso que assumimos no combate contra a pobreza é total. Da nossa parte, comprometemo-nos a fortalecer os canais de diálogo, de coordenação e de facilitação e a alargar os espaços de intervenção dos homens e mulheres de boa vontade, que querem o bem para o Povo Moçambicano.

Uma palavra especial vai para os nossos compatriotas na diáspora, que a partir das últimas eleições, inauguraram uma nova era no relacionamento com a sua Pátria Amada. Temos esperança que este novo quadro lhes inspire a multiplicar iniciativas em apoio ao desenvolvimento económico e social do seu País e de difusão, no exterior, dos seus feitos, história e cultura. Tomamos esta oportunidade para agradecer a todos os países de acolhimento, pela hospitalidade que lhes têm dispensado. Em particular, queremos agradecer àqueles países onde decorreu o processo eleitoral de 1 e 2 de

Dezembro, por lhes terem facilitado a participação no pleito.

No plano internacional continuaremos a pautar pelos princípios de respeito pela independência e igualdade soberana dos Estados. À SADC, a nossa organização regional, reiteramos o nosso engajamento ao processo de integração política, económica, social e cultural da África Austral. Daremos a nossa melhor contribuição para que este projecto se materialize para o bem dos nossos povos e países.

Reiteramos a adesão de Moçambique aos princípios plasmados no Acto Constitutivo da União Africana e na Carta da Organização das Nações Unidas.

Reputamos os objectivos em que se funda a Comunidade dos Países da Língua Portuguesa como actuais e centrais para a aproximação dos povos dos Estados membros. Por isso, o nosso Governo continuará a dar o seu melhor para que a CPLP aumente os benefícios para os nossos povos e países e para que continue a jogar um papel cada vez maior na arena internacional.

Moçambique irá honrar os compromissos assumidos pelo Governo da FRELIMO com os parceiros internacionais a nível bilateral e multilateral, entre eles com a União Europeia, a Organização da Conferência Islâmica, a Commonwealth, os ACP, o Banco Africano de Desenvolvimento, o Fundo Monetário Internacional, o Banco Mundial e o Banco Árabe de Desenvolvimento. Reiteramos aqui, o nosso convite para que nos apoiem neste grande desafio de consolidação da Paz e estabilidade e de combate contra a pobreza.

Queremos aproveitar esta oportunidade para saudar o movimento internacional de solidariedade com África no seu esforço de combate contra a pobreza e de se retirar da marginalização. Em vários quadrantes do mundo são criados fundos ou promovidas iniciativas tendentes a apoiar ou a complementar os esforços dos africanos feitos no contexto da NEPAD. Encorajamos essas iniciativas e queremos vê-las a conferir aos africanos maior capacidade para desenvolverem o seu Continente.

Dentro de dias iremos anunciar o Executivo que terá a missão de materializar a nossa visão e os objectivos programáticos adoptados pelo Povo Moçambicano, através do voto popular. O nosso esforço é que integrem esse Executivo, dirigentes que se guiarão por princípios e valores dignificantes:

- Compromisso com o nosso Manifesto;
- Patriotismo, Unidade Nacional e governação inclusiva;
- Humildade, amor e respeito para com o nosso Povo e o compromisso de lhe prestar serviços cada vez melhores;
- Compromisso com o combate à intriga;
- Profissionalismo, criatividade e amor pelo trabalho;
- Respeito pela equidade do género;
- Democracia participativa e cultura da Paz;
- Gestão transparente da coisa pública e cultura de prestação de contas;
- Empenho no reforço das relações de amizade e cooperação entre o Povo Moçambicano e outros povos do mundo, entre Moçambique e outros Estados e instituições internacionais.

Estes dirigentes terão a missão de assegurar que esses valores e princípios norteiem a actividade governativa, a todos os níveis, permitindo, deste modo, a participação mais activa do Povo Moçambicano na materialização do nosso programa: queremos que o estilo de “Presidência Aberta” se replique a todos os níveis para que o nosso Povo acompanhe, a par e passo, a contribuição de cada dirigente e instituição no combate contra a pobreza.

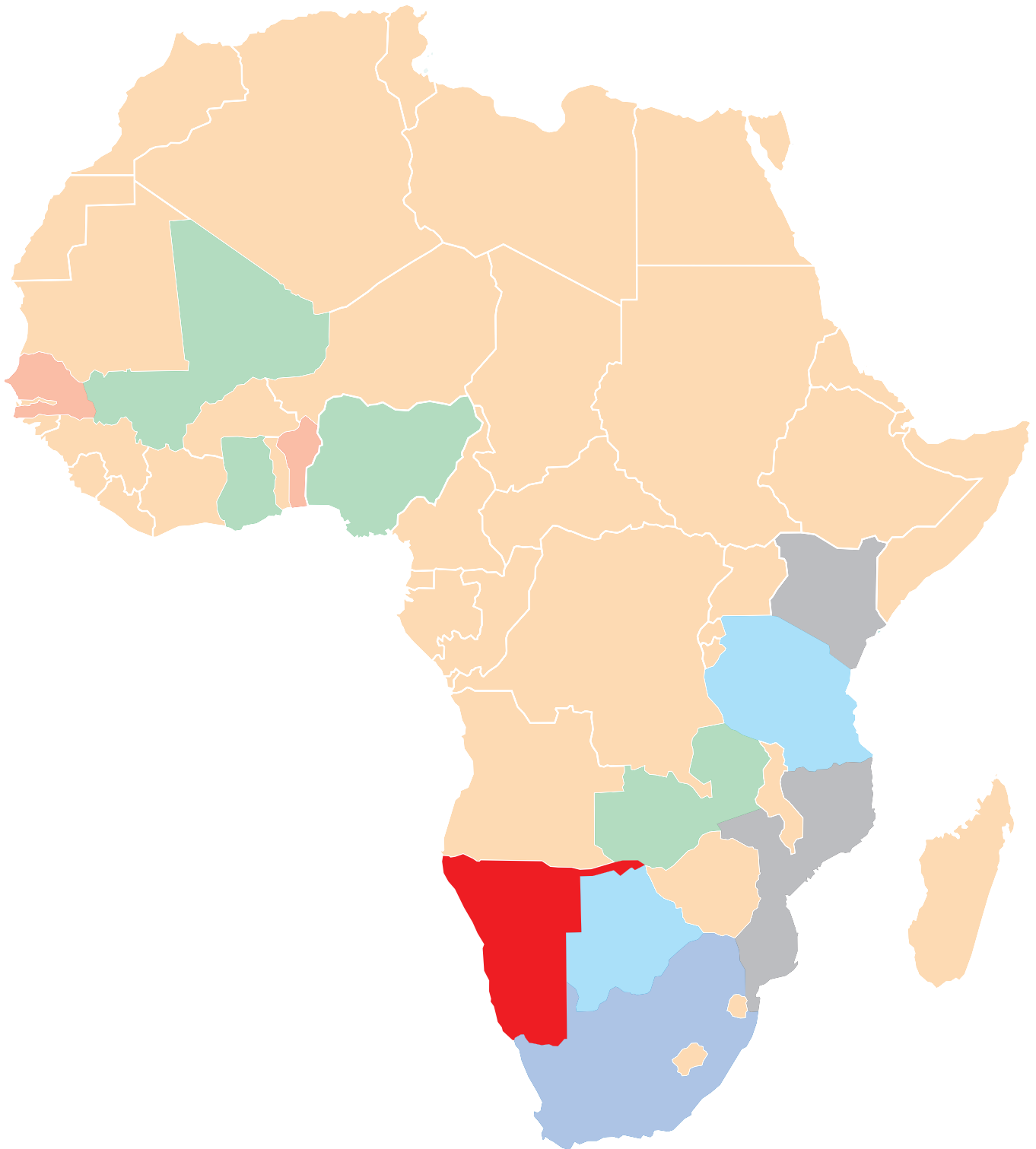
Uma vez mais, expressamos os nossos agradecimentos aos nossos convidados estrangeiros. A Vossa presença é um momento de estreitamento das nossas relações com os povos e instituições que representam. Expressamos uma gratidão especial aos organizadores desta cerimónia, às confissões religiosas, aos grupos culturais, imprensa, pessoal da segurança,

protocolo, motoristas, serventes e todos os outros que contribuíram para a sua realização.

Partamos todos para este novo desafio com a plena certeza de que se cada um de nós jogar o papel que lhe cabe neste compromisso, se cada um arregaçar as mangas, nesta Pérola do Indico, a pobreza vai acabar.

A todos bem hajam e muito obrigado.

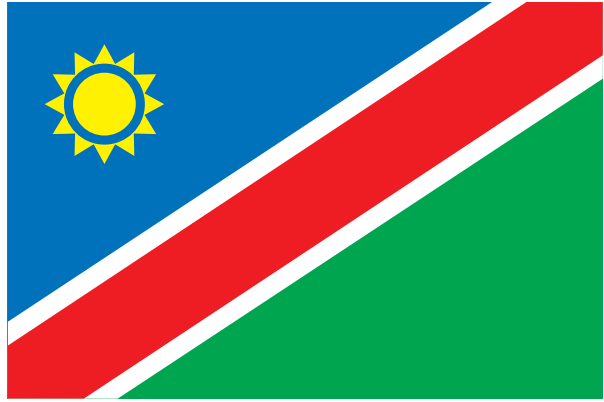
NAMIBIA



NAMIBIA



**State of the Nation Address by His
Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba,
President of the Republic of Namibia
9 June 2005
Windhoek**



On 21 March 2005 our country witnessed [a] historic event in its relatively short existence as an independent and sovereign republic. We celebrated fifteen years of freedom, peace, progress, and social stability. In a turbulent world and in view of a difficult history of the armed liberation struggle, we are indeed fortunate to have succeeded in moulding a united nation and a society where the rights and freedoms of all our citizens are respected and whose people enjoy equal protection before the law.

As a crowning moment, for the achievement of the past fifteen years, the people of Namibia witnessed a smooth transition of presidential power in a peaceful, democratic, and constitutional manner. In that historic act, the rest of the world has seen that democracy in Namibia has grown deep roots [and] that democracy is no longer just a system of governance in our country, but it is a way of life. The smooth transition has demonstrated that Namibia has moved from the stage of the consolidation of democracy towards its institutionalization. Indeed, this is no small achievement.

My duty here this afternoon is to inform the Namibian people about government activities in the last financial year and also to share with them the plans for the coming ten months or so.

I am a very proud citizen of this country. I am very proud because:

- together, we cultivated and nurtured the spirit of national reconciliation and national unity;
- together, we cherished a culture of peace and social stability;
- together, we fought for, attained, and sustained democracy in our country;

- together, we demonstrated the power of mutual tolerance and respect; and
- together, we promoted respect for and upheld the rule of law and democracy in our country.

These are achievements that all Namibians can be proud of. Our country's exemplary democracy is increasingly enabling our people to enjoy the freedom of electing leaders of their choice, leaders whom they think are best qualified to represent their interests at all levels of decision making, starting with local government up to Parliament. I commend all our citizens who worked so hard, so professionally, and so selflessly to ensure that our elections to date were pronounced free and fair and devoid of any acts of intimidation.

I also wish to acknowledge our founding president, Comrade Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, for his patriotism and selfless dedication to the service of our country and her people over the years. You will always occupy an honoured and special place in Namibia's history because through your able leadership and statesmanship, we consolidated the gains of our freedom and independence in the first fifteen years of our nationhood.

Since independence, the Namibian economy has been registering positive growth. During NDP 1 [first National Development Plan], from 1995 to 2000, the economy grew by 3.8 percent on average. The recent midterm review of NDP 2 [second National Development Plan] indicated that the economy grew by 2.7 percent during the first three years of the implementation of NDP 2. Although the Namibian economy did not grow according to our expectation, the economic performance has been higher than that of the pre-independence era.

However, Namibia should have done better if the prevalence of HIV infection could be reduced, especially among the most productive section of our nation, such as the youth. I believe that as we move towards the end of NDP 2, there is a need for introspection.

The resource allocations in the new budget, in particular the development budget, are oriented in favour of the development of physical infra-

structure. These investments are aimed at expanding the capacity of our economy to grow in the long term. This is because, concurrent with the imperative of investing in our national priorities of social sectors, there is a need to foster sustainable impetus to our economic growth so that we can sustain our investment in our long-term goals.

The Medium-Term Expenditure Framework for 2005–2006 to 2007–2008 development budget allocations are as follows: 23.6 percent for social sectors, 23.3 percent for public administration, 41 percent for infrastructure, and 11.7 percent will be allocated to productive sectors.

There has been a considerable shift over the past five years in the areas of development cooperation, notably the gradual phasing out of traditional grant forms of assistance towards trade and development and the acquisition of soft loans.

The promotion of partnerships between the public and private sectors is gaining importance. There is a growing appreciation for the advantages of budget support and the sectorwide approach, as opposed to support for stand-alone projects. Some development partners are also moving towards regional forms of development cooperation instead of focusing on individual countries. The government of the Republic of Namibia has taken note of these changes and has moved to position itself to deal effectively with the new realities and to maximize the benefits that can be derived. Of particular interest is the visible drop in bilateral assistance from N\$947.01 million in 1999 to N\$418.5 million in 2003, respectively.

It should be noted that this assistance in the form of grants will gradually decrease after the 2007–2008 financial year, and other forms of cooperation will be phased in. These will include more commercial cooperation, institutional cooperation, exchange of experts and research programmes, concessional loan financing, and increased regional cooperation through our regional body, SADC [Southern African Development Community].

Our country needs to establish a comprehensive statistical database of inward development-assistance flows. At present, over 90 percent of

aid flow to Namibia is channelled outside the State Revenue Fund. The government would prefer that external resources are directed through its own financial systems so that the government can account for all external financial inflows and thereby improve predictability levels of development assistance from our respective development partners. As we implement the next generation of our National Development Plans, starting with NDP 3 [third National Development Plan] in 2008, continued support from our development partners will form an important component of the government's social programmes.

It is important for us to be able to measure the pace at which we are moving towards our goals to continuously monitor and establish policy impacts with a reasonable degree of accuracy. Therefore, official statistics constitute an important tool to ensure systematic monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes, and their respective outputs and outcomes. In this regard, adequate attention must be given to performance audits in the same manner that government financial audits are handled. This entails the production, processing, dissemination, planning, coordination, and supervision of the National Statistical System.

I am pleased to state that the census analysis of the 2001 Population and Housing Census has been carried out as planned. It is also important to state that [the] Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey is critical to provide socioeconomic data for the Terminal Evaluation of NDP 2 and benchmark data for NDP 3. It is for these reasons that care and attention must always be devoted to the collection of data to ensure quality output.

I would also like to mention that the Namibia Census of Agriculture 2004–2005 will provide benchmark data for NDP 3 plan formulation, the review of NDP 2, and will also be useful to other policy interventions in the agricultural sector.

The National Planning Commission, through the Central Bureau of Statistics, produces an improved Consumer Price Index, which is representative of the entire country as compared to the Interim Consumer Price Index, which was

confined to Windhoek. The new index was launched in February 2005 and continues to be disseminated on a monthly basis.

The performance of our economy is vital in our efforts to improve the living standards of our people and place our country on a steady path towards the realization of Vision 2030. It is, therefore, necessary for me to shed some light on the broad economic performance of our country. I wish to state that while the analysis from the Bank of Namibia offers good news in some areas, it also offers difficult insights that highlight the mammoth challenges that we still face. The Namibian economy is projected to stabilize at 3.8 percent in 2005, moderately below the estimated rate of growth of 4.4 percent in 2004.

This growth will be supported by an increasing production of offshore diamonds and a higher output in base metals, notably zinc and copper. The medium-term growth prospects are likely to stay the same, with economic growth remaining in the region of 3 percent.

The unemployment rate in Namibia continues to be one of the most pressing concerns facing policy makers at all levels. According to available data, unemployment is more acute among the Namibian youth, particularly in the age group twenty to twenty-four years. A further consequence of slow economic growth is the high level of poverty in our country. At present, about 35 percent of our citizens are living in difficult circumstances. This compels us to ensure that Namibia's economic policy reforms should continue to focus on addressing poverty and unemployment if the goals of Vision 2030 are to be attained.

Economic reform is by no means an easy undertaking, but it is a task that we must face with courage and determination. The necessary reforms should include the enhancement of skills, promotion of labour-absorbing export sectors, improvement of access to finance, establishment of new financing vehicles such as venture capital aid, and increasing the local ownership of our financial sector.

A related issue is the persistent outflows of Namibia's savings, which are mostly invested in South Africa. As these funds are needed to

finance investment and growth in Namibia, the government will continue to implement measures already approved by cabinet last year to minimize such outflows.

In terms of regional economic integration, Namibia has made its due contribution to regional organizations in advancing regional economic integration. We have contributed to the implementation of the new SACU [Southern African Customs Union] agreement and played a significant role in the setting up of the SACU Secretariat in Windhoek. We believe that meaningful monetary integration at the regional level can only be achieved through coordinated macroeconomic policies.

As the ruling party for the past fifteen years, the SWAPO [South-West Africa People's Organization] Party has always been guided by the provisions contained in its Election Manifestos to deliver services and social amenities to all our citizens. During the period under review, development programmes implemented by the government and other public agencies reached all corners of Namibia, impacting positively on the lives of our citizens.

We in the SWAPO Party government believe that our most valuable economic asset is our people. If our people have [a] solid education and training, if they are provided with appropriate scientific and technological skills, if they are provided with an enabling environment that permits them to apply their knowledge and expertise fully, then our country stands a good chance of achieving rapid socioeconomic development. I must state that we have made notable progress in education over the last fifteen years. More than 80 percent of adult Namibians are now literate, and more than 90 percent of eligible children are in primary school.

Enrolments in vocational and technical education have increased twelvefold since 1992, and tertiary enrolments have increased by more than 50 percent since 1991.

Despite these efforts and related gains, many challenges still remain. We need to produce more sufficiently skilled and educated citizens for our workforce. Thus, there is a need to improve the

quality of our education. It is for these reasons that the education and training sector undertook a comprehensive analysis of our education system. The analysis identified the need for sector-wide reforms to improve quality, responsiveness, effectiveness, [and] internal efficiency and to redress the lingering inequalities. This has led to the joint development of the Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme (ETSIP). This strategic framework and road map for the period from 2005 to 2020 was adopted by cabinet earlier this year.

Already, other measures are being enforced to improve the quality of formal education. The Inspectorate and Advisory Services in the Ministry of Education have been reorganized. National Standards and Performance Indicators for Schools have been compiled into a manual. The first core group of inspectors, education officers, and advisory teachers was trained in its use in February this year. Moreover, curriculum reform is under way to ensure that school subjects are relevant to the needs of our country's development. In this respect, the new lower primary curriculum for grades one and two was implemented in January 2005, with grades three and four scheduled for implementation next year.

Parallel with this process is the localization of senior secondary examinations. In fact, the first localized senior secondary examination is scheduled for 2007, by which time Namibia will have fully taken over the administration of this examination from Cambridge International Examinations. Already, 85 percent of examinations are marked in Namibia by Namibian markers.

I am also pleased to state that practical initiatives have been taken to promote the use and application of information communication technology in our education sector. These include relevant training for staff members of the Ministry of Education, the establishment of computer laboratories at all four colleges of education, and the establishment of a computer refurbishment centre at the Windhoek Vocational Training Centre. I must add here that I had [the] privilege [of] launch[ing] the project only yesterday.

Namibia is experiencing a serious problem with unemployment, especially among school leavers. As a result, the *Presidential Commission on Education, Culture, and Training Report* recommended that entrepreneurship should be strengthened in the school curriculum in order to equip our youth with the necessary skills. The Ministry of Education decided to introduce entrepreneurship as a compulsory subject in the junior secondary phase from 2007 and is exploring options to secure funding so that the subject is implemented successfully and that teachers are trained and the necessary materials are available.

In addition, a national ICT [Information and Communication Technologies] Literacy Project aimed [at] providing unemployed youth with internationally recognized basic ICT certification will soon be initiated with the assistance of the Social Development Fund of Namibia. I am pleased to announce that the funding for this project was recently approved by cabinet. Also, as part of this drive, computers are being installed in a growing number of schools, and an ICT Policy in Education has been adopted. Its implementation plan is envisaged to be ready by the end of this month. Steps have been taken to integrate HIV/AIDS awareness in the education sector. With the assistance of the Global Fund, activities to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS in the education sector are due to increase significantly in 2005 and 2006.

One of the most important yardsticks to measure progress in education is the examination results. We are encouraged that at the end of 2004, improvements at both junior secondary and senior secondary levels were registered. It is, therefore, our hope that renewed national efforts to improve the quality of education will continue to bear fruit. I also wish to mention that the Vocational Education and Training System is being restructured to address concerns such as relevance, efficiency, and the quality of training. A task force was appointed to facilitate the establishment of the Namibia Training Authority.

Within the context of improving equity and access, a tertiary programme for visually impaired students has commenced at the Ongwediva

College of Education and [the] Valombola Vocational Training Centre. The objective of the programme is to ensure that inclusive education forms part of the curriculum for teacher education and for vocational education and training. In the same vein, a programme to increase the number of teachers for mathematics, general science, and agriculture is well on course. Under this programme, six hundred students are to be trained at teacher-training institutions in Zimbabwe.

Access to adequate housing is a basic right that all our citizens should enjoy. However, many challenges still exist in this sector. Many citizens still face inadequate or poor living conditions, particularly in our urban and peri-urban settlements. In order to address the problem, the government is now actively working with local authorities and settlement areas to provide affordable housing to our people.

The government believes in the principle of community participation in addressing the problem of access to decent housing. To this end, we coordinate our efforts with the Shack-Dwellers Association. From time to time, our SWAPO Party government allocates funds to provide housing to pensioners and other vulnerable groups of our society. An amount of N\$19.35 million was spent on the conversion of single quarters into family-living units at Grootfontein, Okakarara, Gobabis, Gochas, and Keetmanshoop. Another amount of N\$2.8 million was allocated for the improvement of informal settlements at Witvlei, Eenhana, Okahandja, Leonardsville, and Kamanjab.

The Build Together Programme has been decentralized and continues to be a useful mechanism for the provision of affordable housing across the country. With a view to strengthening this programme, personnel from regional and local authorities were given in-service training in various aspects necessary for the effective execution of their duties.

During the 2005–2006 financial year, the National Housing Enterprise plans to build 562 houses at the cost of N\$43.6 million. Another impediment that has constrained the pace for the provision of housing is the lack of adequate

resources in some local authorities to develop infrastructure needed before residential neighbourhoods can be developed. These challenges call for a united response from the government, the private sector, and all social partners.

In the area of health, infant mortality has decreased from sixty-seven deaths per thousand live births in 1992 to fifty-two deaths per thousand live births in 2003. The proportion of one-year-old children immunized against measles has improved from 63 percent to 72 percent. It is also worth noting that the proportion of rural households with access to safe drinking water increased from 45 percent in 1992 to 80 percent in 2003, while the proportion of rural households with access to basic sanitation increased from 15 percent in 1992 to 21 percent in 2003. Today illnesses such as polio and neonatal tetanus are no [longer] reported in Namibia. Measles incidence, which was very high during the 1990s, is no longer a public health threat.

However, the HIV/AIDS pandemic remains a major challenge for our country, as it affects all other sectors and sections of society. Despite a relatively small population, Namibia is ranked amongst the countries with the highest infection rates in the world, and HIV/AIDS is now the leading cause of hospitalization and death in our country.

The government has introduced nationwide programmes to deal with the pandemic. The National AIDS Control Programme is being implemented through measures such as antiretroviral therapy and the prevention of mother-to-child infection. The prevention of mother-to-child infection programme has grown since its inception in 2002 and is now provided in thirty-two health facilities in all thirteen regions. Likewise, the provision of antiretroviral treatment therapy, which started in 2003, is now available at twenty-five public hospitals countrywide.

The regular HIV/AIDS sentinel sero-survey of women attending antenatal care was again conducted by the Namibia Institute of Pathology from July to October 2004 in twenty-four hospitals. The results of the survey reflect an HIV prevalence of 19.8 percent, which indicates a

decline of 2.2 percent compared to the prevalence of 22 percent in 2002. The good news is that the most sexually active age groups, those between fifteen and thirty-four years, all experienced a decline in HIV prevalence.

Namibia is considered to be the most arid country in southern Africa, where water is scarce for both human beings and livestock. Therefore, our SWAPO Party government has placed considerable emphasis on the provision of water for household use and agriculture. To this end, we have managed to improve water supply service to our rural population by more than 75 percent. The target is to reach 80 percent by 2006 and to cover 100 percent of the rural population by 2030. Last year, a total of 332 community water points were made operational across the country, and they are now under the management of the respective communities.

Government is fully aware of the valuable contributions that indigenous plants and their products make to the livelihoods of the majority of [the] Namibian farming community, particularly small farmers. We have continued to invest in improving the value and quality of these products. For example, we have helped farmers to produce oil and juice among other products from fruits like marula and baobab, as well as products of pharmaceutical value from plants such as devil's claw and the hoodia. These products are now reaching export markets in Europe. I must, however, stress the importance of sustainable harvest of these plants and their products. Last year, government started with trials to test the viability of commercial cultivation of devil's claw in the Omaheka Region.

For a developing country such as Namibia, the availability of reliable electricity is a measure of socioeconomic advancement. It has a direct and positive correlation to the improvement of the standard of living of citizens. Electricity is necessary to drive economic activities and to enable our people to take advantage of new economic opportunities with a view to improving their lives. I can report today that the restructuring and rationalization of the electricity supply industry has started to bear positive results.

Three regional electricity distributors [REDs] have been established, namely, NORED in the north and eastern regions, Erongo RED in the west, and CENORED for central and northern towns. NORED is already operational, and the other two will start operations next month. Negotiations to establish regional electricity distributors for central and southern regions are in progress.

The rural electrification programme remains an important priority of our SWAPO Party government. To date the government has invested more than N\$260 million in electrifying rural centres in all the thirteen regions of our country. In the off-grid areas, the government has also electrified more than eight hundred households and small businesses by means of solar-power home systems. To date, more than eight hundred solar [-power] systems have been installed countrywide.

Other sources of renewable power have also been implemented, including the use of biomass energy. The National Biomass Steering Committee has been established with the aim of promoting the use of this energy source. Training on how to make and market biomass efficient stoves was carried out at Ondobe, Okahao, [and] Khorixas, as well as in Windhoek.

Last year, cabinet mandated Nampower and Namcor to develop the Kudu Gas-to-Power Project. We now expect a final investment decision to be made towards the end of this year and construction of this project to commence in 2006. Plans are under way to implement the Caprivi link, connecting the Namibian electricity network with that of Zambia. When implemented, the link will make it possible for the Caprivi region to receive electricity directly from our national power grid.

Namibia is also participating in the Western Power Corridor Initiative to exploit the huge potential of the Inga Rapids in the Democratic Republic of the Congo [DRC]. The aim is to build a hydropower station at Inga Rapids, which has the potential rated output of 39,000 megawatts. With such output, it will generate enough power to supply the entire continent and still have surplus electricity for export to

Europe. Other participants in the project are electricity utilities from South Africa, Angola, DRC, and Botswana.

In a caring and compassionate manner, our SWAPO Party government has always brought to the centre the needs of vulnerable groups in our society. This is precisely because we hold the view that the elderly, the poor, children, and people living with disabilities and those facing natural disasters have special needs that warrant special government intervention. It is for this reason that the government continues to provide for old-age pensions, disability grants, subvention for war veterans, [and] assistance to orphans and vulnerable children, as well as other forms of social assistance, including provision for funeral benefits for our elderly.

Through the timely intervention of government and its development partners, the 2003–2004 drought disaster was averted. A comprehensive drought programme was implemented from November 2003 to May 2004, benefiting a total of more than six hundred thousand people. During the same period, five thousand people in the flooded areas of the Caprivi Region were evacuated and provided with basic necessities.

In order to promote quality early-childhood development, the government will continue to support community-based early-childhood-development centres countrywide, especially in the previously disadvantaged communities. We believe that early-childhood-development programmes can be an effective tool to fight poverty and to break the vicious cycle of illiteracy. We are pleased with the progress that has been made so far in this area. More than 4,000 centres have been established countrywide. More than 108,000 children are currently enrolled. I am pleased to state that 57 percent of them are girls.

It is also important to note that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare has started with the construction of recreational centres for children in Oshakati, Rundu, Katima Mulilo, and Kalkrand. The initiative will be expanded to other parts of the country in the coming years. I can also report that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare together with the

National Institute for Educational Development have jointly developed an appropriate preprimary school syllabus.

Our SWAPO Party government is committed to meeting the needs of orphans and other vulnerable children through the provision of appropriate services and assistance. During the 2004–2005 financial year alone, government spent more than N\$54 million for such assistance and services. The National Policy on Orphans and Vulnerable Children was finalized in December last year and launched on 9 February 2005. Thus, all wheels should get into motion to ensure its full implementation.

In line with the provisions of the Affirmative Action Act, the Office of the Prime Minister has established a Disability Advisory Unit to advise and assist the Office of the Prime Minister on matters pertaining to people with disabilities as well as on issues of policy formulation and execution. The unit represents Namibia on the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee, which is formulating a ‘Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities’.

In conjunction with the Electoral Commission of Namibia, the unit facilitated the production of special ballot papers, which made it possible for Namibians with visual impairment to vote in last year’s presidential, National Assembly, and Regional Councils elections. The unit also facilitated the translation of the Public Service Charter into Braille to make it accessible to visually impaired persons. During the period under review, the Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Programme, under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and Social Services, distributed more than 800 assistive devices to people living with disabilities, and 828 cataract sufferers had their sight successfully restored.

I indicated earlier that our national budget is oriented in favour of strengthening and expanding our physical infrastructures. Here we are talking about public buildings, roads, railways, harbours, airports, telephone lines, cellular networks, and indeed other facilities. During the 2004–2005 financial year, more than twenty

major capital projects were completed at a cost of more than N\$135 million.

These include the renovation and extension of hospitals and district hospitals in various parts of the country, such as the Nyangana, Andara, Khorixas, Omaruru, Okakarara, Windhoek Central, the Cardiac Unit at the Windhoek Central Hospital, and the Karibih Health Centre. Construction work was also successfully completed at the Keetmanshoop, Oson, and Otjiwarongo military bases, while the Swakopmund Sport Complex, the Frans Dimbare Youth Centre, and [the] Ongwediva Women’s Centre were also completed.

In addition, the Ministry of Works, Transport, and Communication has standardized the design of certain public buildings such as schools, hostels, and houses. Progress has also been made in the alienation of government houses, with 350 houses sold countrywide, generating an income of more than N\$91.6 million. Moreover, the accounting functions for leasing and letting state land and buildings have now been computerized, as part of our efforts to address concerns of malpractice and self-enrichment that were detected in the renting and allocation of government accommodation.

On the same note, I urge the ministry to address the lack of security and the vandalism of government properties, particularly government-owned apartments. The ministry should also move speedily to evict all illegal occupants from government flats and houses. In many cases, it is such illegal occupants who contribute to the deterioration of the physical condition of these facilities.

Communication and transport networks are the backbone of our national economy. Thus, they must always be kept in a state of good repair through regular maintenance, and when resources allow, we must continue to expand them. Several road construction and maintenance projects were undertaken during the period under review. Construction work on the Aus-Rosh Pinah Road is progressing well and will be completed in March 2006. Construction of the Opuwo-Omakange Road and the rehabilitation works on the Ondangwa-Oshikango Road are

expected to be completed in August this year. Construction work on the Kamanjab-Omakange Road will commence in July 2006.

An amount of N\$8 million is provided in the current financial year as counterpart funding for the construction of the Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru Road, pending the conclusion of negotiations between the governments of Namibia and Japan. In order to open up the northwestern parts of the country to increased trade and commerce, the government is investigating the feasibility of building Namibia's third harbour in the vicinity of Cape Fria or Angra-Fria. The prefeasibility study is expected to be completed in July this year. The envisaged third port will expand our country's capacity for handling increased regional trade and commerce serving the land-locked countries in the region.

Our efforts to improve and expand rail transport in the country are also progressing well. The Northern Railway Extension Project reached an important milestone in its first phase, with the opening of the Sam Nujoma Station at Oshivelo. The event coincided with the maiden voyage of the Omugulugombashe Star, Namibia's new high-speed train. The first phase of the project, covering a distance of 250 kilometres from Tsumeb to Ondangwa, is due for completion in October 2006. The rehabilitation of the rail link from Aus to Luderitz is progressing well. Its completion is scheduled for the end of 2007.

The government has seen fit to improve our airports to ensure smooth travel for businesspersons and tourists alike. The runway at Walvis Bay Airport will be extended to accommodate wide-bodied aircraft. Under the same agreement, firefighting equipment will be upgraded and new meteorological and air traffic control equipment will be installed at Hosea Kutako International, Walvis Bay, and Luderitz airports.

Another important component of our physical infrastructure is the telephone and mobile communication networks. It is pleasing to note that the telecommunications backbone system in Namibia is now 100 percent digital. This will lead to the introduction of new and more efficient communication technologies. In the area of

mobile communications, 48 percent of our huge land mass is now covered. This translates into 88 percent of our population being covered by the cellular telephone footprint.

In the electronic media, a new station for San [tribe] listeners was launched. With the expansion of its studios and transmitter network, the NBC [Namibian Broadcasting Corporation] reaches approximately 95 percent of our national territory, while television services have also been expanded. Despite these developments, many communities will continue to use more mundane forms of communication in the coming years, such as postal services. In the last financial year, new post offices were opened at Oshikango, Okankolo, [and] Oshigambo, as well as Otjomuise here in Windhoek. In addition to the traditional role of delivering mail, post offices now provide other important functions, including banking services. Thus, they are indispensable facilities, particularly in those areas where conventional banking facilities and services do not exist.

The private and commercial sectors of our economy continue to be the engines that drive economic growth in our country. Naturally, therefore, on an occasion such as this, the role of our private sector and commercialized state-owned enterprises should come under the microscope of public scrutiny. The mining industry continues to be the undisputed champion in our economy due to its preeminence as a source of revenue for state coffers. In recent years, the industry has experienced healthy growth trends with the inflow of significant investment capital and the opening of new mines. For instance, the year 2003 was a blessed year for the sector, witnessing the commissioning of the Scorpion Zinc Mine and the opening of Ongopolo Mining and Processing Ltd. at Tsumeb. The latter resulted in full mining operations at three mines, namely Tsumeb West, Kombat, and Otjihase, as well as the reopening of the Tsumeb smelter.

In the same year, AngloGold Namibia carried out extensive studies to prolong the life of Navachab Gold Mine near Karibib. In the second quarter of 2004, Sakawe Mining Corporation acquired the liquidated Namibia Mineral

Corporation and started offshore mining operations. Today the company mines and polishes Namibian diamonds at a modern Windhoek-based factory, which employs more than five hundred people.

Moreover, Namibia made a significant investment of N\$458 million in the Elizabeth Bay Resource Extension and Pocket Beaches projects. Full production is expected at the end of this year [2005]. We are encouraged by the level of spending by investors in local exploration activities, which amounted to N\$264 million during the period under review.

New mining projects are also under way. A new shaft was sunk at Asis Far West near Kombat, and the Matchless Mine is expected to be reopened during the middle of this year. The feasibility study at the Langer Heindrich uranium deposit in the Erongo Region is at an advanced stage. Paladin Resources, an Australian company that holds mineral rights, is expected to apply for a mining licence this year. We also expect African Rainbow Minerals to apply for a mining licence for the gold prospect between Otjiwarongo and Otavi. Diamond exploration in the Kavango Region by Matopa Diamonds is continuing.

The fisheries sector is currently experiencing difficulties due to economic and operational factors. These problems are not unique to Namibia, as they are being experienced by other fishing nations around the world. Despite this, however, the sector remains one of the most important contributors to our economy, second only to the mining sector in terms of export earnings and GDP [gross domestic product] contribution.

At present, more than 20 commercially important species are landed by a total of 279 vessels which are licensed to fish in Namibian waters. The government will continue to manage our marine fisheries in a sustainable manner to ensure continuous contribution of this sector to our socioeconomic development. In the short term, government has introduced a number of measures to help the industry weather the current difficulties.

We are encouraged by research indicating that no abnormal environmental phenomena were

experienced in our waters during 2004 and that major fish stocks have shown signs of growth. For example, the spawning biomass of hake was estimated at 1.3 million tonnes and the horse mackerel total biomass stood at 1.4 million tonnes in 2004.

The government views the development of aquaculture as a key priority due to its potential to improve national food security, generate employment, and increase investment. With the aquaculture legislation now in place, the government is actively facilitating the expansion of aquaculture projects in different regions. At present, six fish farms are being developed in Kavango and Caprivi regions. In addition, communities and small-scale farmers in other regions such as Oshikoto, Oshana, Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Hardap, and Karas have been receiving fingerlings in recent months to start their own projects.

At Omahenene in the Omusati Region, a small-scale hatchery raises fingerlings for small-scale farmers. In April 2004, the founding president of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Sam Nujoma, officially inaugurated the Inland Aquaculture Centre at Omahenene. The first harvest of two tonnes of tilapia took place at the centre in August 2004. The centre produces breeding stocks and provides training to small-scale fish farmers in semi-intensive aquaculture practices. Since its inception, the centre has distributed 200,000 fingerlings to 165 fish farmers.

Other government-funded initiatives include the Aquaculture Inland Fisheries Institute, which is being built at Kamutjonga in the Kavango Region.

The private sector has also welcomed the huge potential of aquaculture and has already brought some projects on stream. Commercial marine aquaculture is currently dominated by oyster production in Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, and Luderitz.

Agriculture continues to be the mainstay of our economy, particularly in terms of employment creation and food production. The sector is supported by the Agricultural Bank of Namibia, which provided loans to the tune of N\$285.9

million for farming operations and related activities during the period under review. The Affirmative Action Loan Scheme provided N\$143 million for the purchase of land in commercial-farming areas. Under the National Agricultural Credit Programme, N\$22.8 million was granted for community-based agricultural activities. At the end of February 2005, the total loan book for Agribank stood at N\$1.51 billion.

Given the low rainfall and the unreliability of rain-fed agriculture, irrigation development has become an important strategy to increase local food production. As part of the Green Scheme, the government has approved plans to increase investments in irrigation, growing cereals, grain, and horticulture crops, using waters from the rivers of the Zambezi, the Okavango, the Orange, and the Kunene. At the moment we are developing eight agricultural projects, namely at Etunda, Ndonga Linena, Vungu-Vungu, Manhare, Kalimbeza, and Hardap. There is huge interest from investors both locally and internationally, and we expect significant growth in the crop sector over the next five years. Government has further approved plans to construct marketing infrastructure for perishable horticulture produce, and construction will start during this financial year.

Land reform and redistribution is one of the core policies of our SWAPO Party government. The government will continue to implement our land reform policy in line with the relevant laws and provisions contained in the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto. The government will also endeavour to provide assistance and agricultural inputs to resettled farmers in order to enable them to become productive.

Our government has sought to transform and reorient our economy from its heavy reliance on the production and export of raw materials towards industrialization and manufacturing. The objectives are to expand the country's productive base, create jobs, effect skills and technology transfer, and contribute to the economy's overall growth. In April last year, the Development Bank of Namibia was launched to address the gap in development financing and to [enhance] the gov-

ernment's efforts to empower our people economically. The bank has already put in place the necessary operational mechanisms to start fulfilling its important mandate.

[The] cabinet has also endorsed the Special Industrialization Programme as a vehicle to kick-start manufacturing. The drop in Namibia's competitive ranking in Africa from fourth to fifth place is a great concern to us. Therefore, the government will work closely with the private sector, trade unions, and other stakeholders to make sure that we improve on our competitive ranking. I believe that efforts such as those made by the private sector under the 'Team Namibia' umbrella to market local products here at home and internationally under the 'Naturally Namibian' branding strategy are a step in the right direction.

In recognition of the critical role that the small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play in the socioeconomic development of our country, the government has put in place an SME policy and related programmes. These include the Sites and Premises Development Programme, the Small Business Credit Guarantee Trust, and others. To date, nineteen SME modules have been built across the country at the cost of N\$104 million. Cabinet has also approved the transformation of the Small Business Credit Guarantee Trust into a self-sustaining microfinance institution, which will require capitalization of N\$40 million over a period of five years.

A special development fund has been established as part of the Development Bank of Namibia to improve access to financing for the SME sector. The Ministry of Trade and Industry is also planning to carry out a nationwide SME census in order to establish the characteristics of SMEs in Namibia, their contribution to the economy, [and] their growth rate, and to identify problems and challenges facing the sector.

Many Namibians derive economic benefit from the sustainable use of our natural resources through tourism. With a view to further strengthening the sector, a national tourism policy is currently being finalized to guide the sustainable and equitable tourism development

for economic empowerment. Tourism has grown rapidly in recent years, from approximately 254,000 international tourist arrivals in 1993 to more than 700,000 in 2004. This represents a growth rate of almost 200 percent. It is also projected that within a few years, tourism could become the second-biggest economic sector in our country. The number of international tourist arrivals increased by 13 percent in the past year, compared to a global average of 2.7 percent. These are encouraging developments that give us hope for the future growth of this sector.

Globally, tourism accounts for one in every twelve jobs. In Namibia, it is currently estimated that tourism provides at least 23,000 direct, and 25,000 indirect, jobs. These figures are likely to expand as the sector grows. According to the latest statistics, direct spending by tourists visiting Namibia in 2002 for leisure amounted to more than N\$2.8 billion, or 8 percent of gross domestic product.

Similarly, notable progress has been made to enable rural communities to enter the mainstream of tourism industry through the conservancy model. A total of thirty-one conservancies, up from fifteen in 2003, have been registered across the country. An additional twelve registrations are still pending. Approximately forty thousand adults are currently registered as conservancy members.

This programme has shown significant results, evident from the high degree of public interest, [the] recovery of wildlife populations, and revenues earned through tourism, hunting, and other activities. In 2004, total revenues earned by conservancies amounted to more than N\$15 million. This is an increase of 27 percent over the previous year and is expected to increase further in 2005. The number of tourists visiting community-based tourism enterprises has increased from thirty thousand in 1999 to over seventy thousand in 2004 and [is] projected to exceed ninety thousand in 2005. The first tourism lodge that will be wholly owned by a rural community will be launched this year. More will certainly follow in the near future.

On the legislative front, our Parliament passed fourteen important pieces of legislation,

such as the Labour Bill; the Pharmacy Bill; the National Disability Council Bill; the Stock Theft Amendment Bill; the Research, Science, and Technology Bill; the Criminal Procedure Bill; and the Prevention of Organized Crime Bill. Parliament also ratified several conventions, including the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption [and] the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

The legislature has continued to fulfil its oversight functions by discussing and scrutinizing annual reports from government institutions, local authorities, and state-owned enterprises. In the same vein, parliament[ary] committees summoned accounting officers from various offices, ministries, and agencies to public hearings in order to answer questions relating to overall financial management of those institutions. That is indeed accountable democracy at work.

I am pleased to report that plans to construct an access ramp and install a lift to make Parliament more accessible to people living with disabilities are progressing well and should be completed this year [2005].

Today Namibia is at peace with herself and her neighbours. Domestically, our Policy of National Reconciliation has served our people well over the years. It is because of this atmosphere of peace and stability [that] we have managed to forge a united nation striving for the common good of all its members. Our judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and our defence force play a critical role in maintaining peace and enforcing the rule of law and democracy in our country.

We will continue to ensure that our community plays an important role in the administration of justice in our country. To this end, this august House has already passed the Community Courts Bill. We will also continue to undertake law reform and development with a view to addressing the concerns of our nation. Bills such as Small Claims, Inheritance and Succession, Divorce, and Juvenile Justice are receiving attention by the Ministry of Justice. In addition, a number of Magistrates' Courthouses have been built and

upgraded, [and] the construction of the High Court building in Oshakati is receiving attention.

The government is fully committed to fighting crime. NAMPOL [Namibian Police] carried out several successful operations resulting in the confiscation of illicit drugs [and] stolen goods, and the arrest of criminals. The police are under strict orders to bring to book all elements that disturb [the] peace and threaten public order.

We will leave no stone unturned to ensure that all forms of crime are dealt with and the criminals who steal, murder, and rape our defenceless women and children face the full force of the law.

The Namibian Defence Force (NDF) has in recent years taken visible steps to increase its operational capabilities. In October last year [2004], the NDF Maritime Wing was commissioned to a fully fledged Namibian Navy, and six months later, the Air Wing became the Namibian Air Force. I wish to use this opportunity to commend our men and women in uniform for their dedication to duty and their courage as they work to preserve peace and defend the territorial integrity of our country. Within the ambit of our regional and international commitments, Namibia has pledged to deploy a motorized company, as well as other personnel and equipment, to the SADC Standby Brigade and subsequently to the African Standby Force.

Namibia has also pledged or deployed forces to UN [United Nations] peacekeeping operations and observer missions in different countries, including eight hundred troops to Liberia [and] thirty to Sudan, as well as several other officers currently serving in Burundi, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Côte d'Ivoire, and Kosovo.

Namibia is not an island. We are part and parcel of an increasingly globalizing world. Thus, the imperatives of regional economic integration, continental unity, south-[to-]south cooperation, and multilateralism should continue to inform our policies. Through the SADC family of nations and the African Union, we must assert our African-ness and our commitment to the pursuit of a common destiny, the destiny of the African continent. As a product of international

solidarity, we have a duty, in fact an obligation, to work for the maintenance of a fair and just world order: thus our support for the reform of the United Nations System, particularly the UN Security Council.

Several policies and initiatives will be implemented soon. These include the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission in line with the relevant legislation and the intensification of reforms to improve the administration and management of our parastatals through the Central Governance Agency.

Steps will also be taken towards the establishment of the National Institute of Public Management and Administration, which will provide skills training to our civil servants.

The implementation of the policies and programmes by our SWAPO Party government have reached all corners of Namibia and have touched and changed the lives of our citizens for the better. It is for this reason that the people of Namibia have repeatedly renewed the mandate of the SWAPO Party to govern. We are determined to implement that mandate with renewed vigour and determination in line with the overwhelming mandate given to us by the voters. Our guiding compass in this process will remain the 2004 SWAPO Election Manifesto, which contains concrete plans and programmes aimed at improving the living standards of all our people through the implementation of our medium- and long-term development programmes such as NDP 2 and Vision 2030.

I also believe that strong and unshakeable values are necessary so that we do not veer off our course and lose direction. In this regard, we must hold dear and live by the values of transparency, openness, and fairness in all that we do and say. Our civil servants and political leaders alike must set a good example for our citizens. Allow me, therefore, to state that we will serve our country well when we are honest, committed, and work as a united team.

On this solemn and historic occasion, we are filled with joy because our nation has enjoyed peace, security, and freedom for the past fifteen years. The superglue that is holding us together

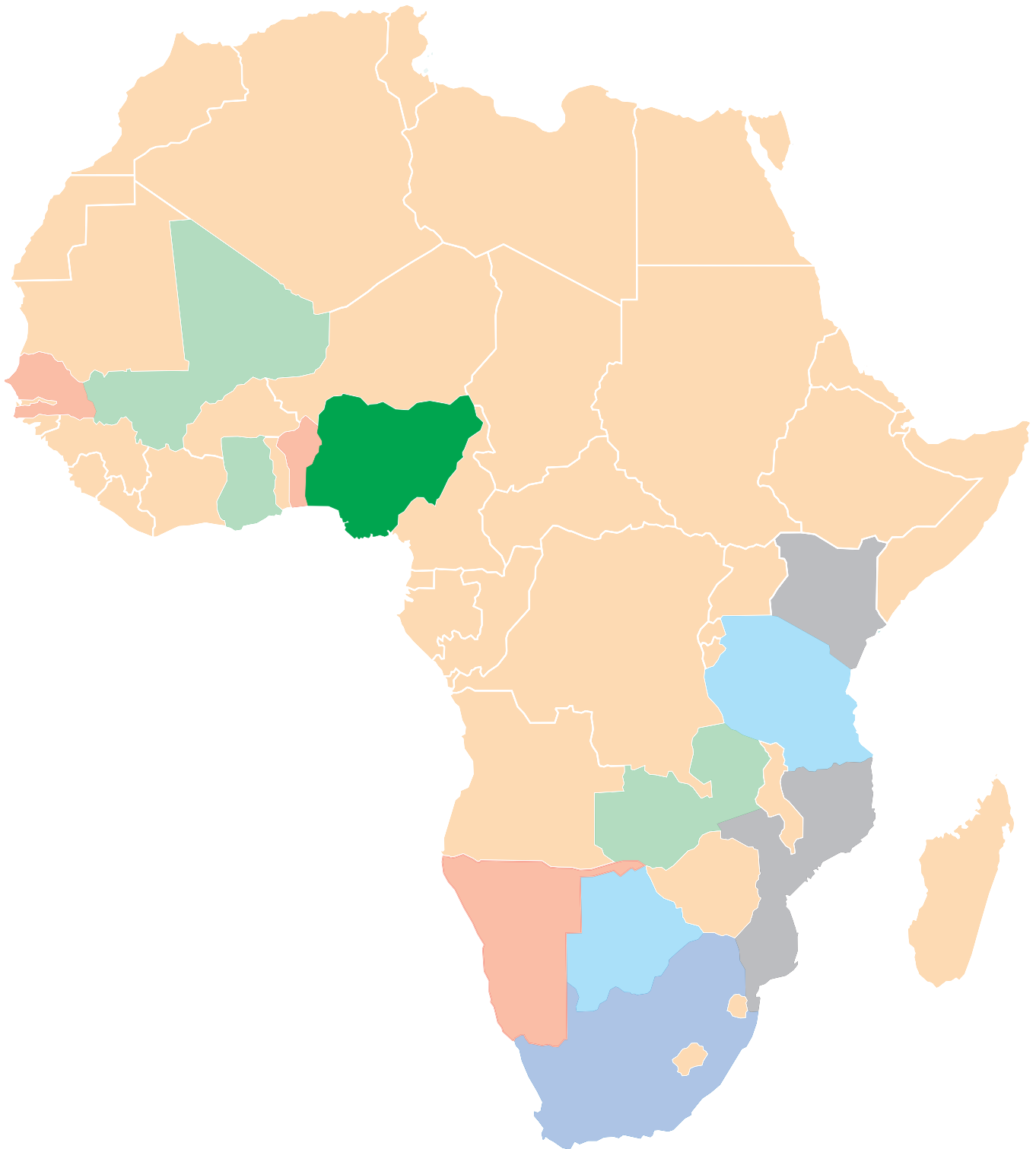
is unity. We rose on our own feet on 21 March 1990 as a free and independent nation. It was unity that sustained us to fight for national independence until we finally achieved our freedom. We should not forget that today we are the masters of this vast land of the brave, the land of our ancestors, because of unity. The destiny of this country is now fully in our own hands. We should, therefore, look forward to the future as a united people with confidence and hope.

Taking the destiny of this country in our own hands means making a collective effort—all of us, regardless of ethnic origin, gender, creed, or colour—to forge greater national identity and unity. Our collective security and prosperity depend on our unity of purpose and action. Unity is a precondition to peace and development. Without peace it is not possible for our citizens to realize their full potential. I cannot help but repeat the standard phrase of my predecessor, and I quote, ‘A united people striving for the common good of all the members of society shall always remain victorious’. I believe that the state of our nation is strong, the state of our nation is promising, and our future is bright. Through hard work and unity, we can bring about a brighter tomorrow for our future generations.

Long live the Republic of Namibia!

I thank you.

NIGERIA



NIGERIA



**Statement by His Excellency
Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, President
of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
and Chairman of the African Union,
at the General Debate of the Sixtieth
Session of the United Nations
General Assembly
17 September 2005
New York City**



The defining characteristic of APARC's African Leaders State of Africa Report is that it is a venue for African leaders to speak their mind in their own voices, presumptively about the state of affairs in their own country. In this year's report, preeminent statesman Olusegun Obasanjo has exercised his prerogative and, instead of "speaking on behalf of the government and people of Nigeria," has chosen to offer his own State of Africa Report in his "capacity as the current chairman of the African Union." He offers an insightful, but sobering, and sometimes inspiring, assessment of the state of things on the continent. In an address to the Sixtieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Obasanjo reflects upon Africa's role within multilateral contexts like the United Nations, as well as multilateral obligations the world has relative to African nation states. He offers a candid assessment on a range of topics: from the impact and purpose of poverty-reduction strategies on the African continent, to African-led peacekeeping initiatives, to the progress being made on the continent relative to the process of democratization. Without histrionics, yet with a sense of history, in simple language, Obasanjo offers up profound insights about where Africa stands and where it is going.

—C. R. S.

The United Nations [UN] is witnessing epoch-making historic events. The session has in the last three days taken [on] the assessment and review of the five-year implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Besides pursuing the reform process, launched by the report of the secretary-general's panel enti-

titled *A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility* and the secretary-general's own report entitled *In Larger Freedom: Towards Security, Development, and Human Rights for All*, the session will also mark the tenth year of implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the World Summit for Social Development, held in Beijing and Copenhagen respectively. I have no doubt that with your vast experience in diplomacy and statecraft you [Jan Eliasson] will pilot the session to a successful conclusion.

The United Nations continues to play a pivotal role in the lives of all people with its vast network of activities. In this regard, Nigeria is firmly anchored in its belief [in], commitment to, and support for the strengthening of the United Nations and the protection of its ideals, in particular the maintenance of international peace and security, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and promotion of international cooperation in solving international economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems. There remains so much to do in those areas that only a rejuvenated United Nations can [optimally] respond to the challenges.

Last year, the situation in the Sudan, including the Darfur region, was a cause of serious concern to Africa and indeed to the international community. However, with the combined efforts of the United Nations, the African Union, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), we have managed to usher in an era of hope in that country. A Comprehensive Peace Agreement [between the Sudan government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army] has been signed and implemented on the long-drawn[-out] north-south conflict, and the fifth round of Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur resumed in Abuja in June 2005 and is currently in progress. I take this opportunity to once again appeal to the parties to shed their hard-line approach to negotiation and [to] adopt a policy of give-and-take in the interest of posterity.

The international community has demonstrated tremendous goodwill in facilitating the peace

process in Darfur, and this must be sustained by the parties. Similarly, it is equally important to maintain and sustain the current level of peace between northern and southern Sudan. In this connection, I salute the courage of the late Mr. John Garang in leading the southern Sudanese people into reaching an accord with the government of the Sudan. We regret the death of Mr. John Garang and extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family, the government, and [the] people of the Sudan.

The situation in Somalia continues to give hope [of] the ability of the contending parties to resolve their differences in the higher interest of their beloved country. The African Union will continue to play an active role in this regard, together with the IGAD and countries in the region to help Somalis realize their dream of a united and peaceful country.

In the West African subregion, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have continued to remain fully engaged with efforts to find a lasting solution to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. In this connection, we acknowledge the valuable support of the United Nations [in] the peace process. We appreciate the efforts deployed by President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa to mediate in Côte d'Ivoire on behalf of the AU [African Union]. In view of President Mbeki's report of 30 August 2005 and the recent declaration that the elections scheduled for October may not take place, it would be necessary for ECOWAS and then the AU to revisit the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. We will do so in full consultation with the secretary-general and the Security Council of the UN.

We commend the evolving return to democracy, reconciliation, security, and development in Togo, and we appreciate the efforts of the UN, EU [European Union], and other development partners in this regard. The elections in Guinea Bissau have come and gone. The reconciliation process that would precede the inauguration of the newly elected president has begun. Both Togo and Guinea Bissau would need substantial support to rebuild their economy, without which

their situations could deteriorate. We call on the UN and its institutions, along with the EU and other development partners, to help.

The AU stands resolutely on its policy of not accepting to sit amongst its members any government that [deviates from] the constitution[al] and democratic processes, and that is the situation now in Mauritania. We of course maintain [a] constructive dialogue advising [an] expeditious return to democracy, with national reconciliation and necessary reforms and legislation to move the country forward.

We welcome the elections in Burundi and the government [resulting] from that election, which is based on the newly agreed[-upon] Constitution. We appreciate all friends of Burundi who have helped to make this happen. Like Togo and Guinea Bissau, Burundi will need special assistance to be able to consolidate its reconciliation and democracy.

We applaud the secretary-general's proposal contained in his recent report on the situation in Sierra Leone and in particular his intention to keep the security, political, humanitarian, and human-rights situations under close review. The AU is equally pleased with the extension, for six months, of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the recognition of the need for a strong United Nations presence in the country after the withdrawal of UNAMSIL. We believe the presence of the UN systems will foster confidence and guarantee stability during the critical months following the withdrawal of UNAMSIL. We call upon the international community to continue to extend assistance to the government of Sierra Leone in its efforts to develop a credible, effective, and sustainable police force, armed forces, and judiciary, as well as [to] rebuild damaged infrastructure necessary to revamp economic and social activities.

The peace process in Liberia is at its most critical phase and calls for the cooperation of all parties in the country. The AU is closely monitoring developments there, and we are optimistic that the elections scheduled for next month [will] lead to a successful transition. In this connection, the diversion of attention through propaganda on

issues unrelated to the conduct of the forthcoming presidential elections should be avoided and resisted.

It is pertinent here for me to repeat what I [have] said before on the issue of Charles Taylor, who was encouraged to leave Liberia to avoid [a] bloodbath. He was encouraged by the leaders of Africa at ECOWAS and AU levels to give up power voluntarily and leave his country in the interest of Liberia, West Africa, Africa, and world peace and security. He was escorted to Nigeria by President Kufuor as the then chairman of ECOWAS and Presidents Mbeki and Chissano as outgoing and incoming chairs of [the] AU respectively.

We believe that the cause of peace in Liberia will be served if Charles Taylor keeps away or is kept away from Liberia during the transition or early stage of [the] nation-rebuilding of Liberia after the elections.

In the Great Lakes region, we took note of the realistic decision of the two houses of Parliament in the Democratic Republic of the Congo [DRC] to extend for a period of six months the transition period that expired on 30 June 2005, in accordance with the provisions of the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement signed in Pretoria [in] December 2002 and in line with Article 196 of the transitional Constitution. The AU is determined to continue to work with the United Nations to facilitate the peaceful resolution of the conflict and in this connection reiterates its call on all parties to the conflict in the DRC to respect this decision. We hope that this will ensure that the elections provided for by the agreement take place satisfactorily. With the cooperation of all parties concerned and the active support of the international community, we are hopeful of an orderly return to normality and the restoration of peace and stability to the DRC.

Nigeria's commitment to nuclear nonproliferation has never been in doubt. We have always supported the view that it should involve all states. Disarmament conventions merit the support of all states, small or large, nuclear or non-nuclear. My delegation regrets the failure of the 2005 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference. We should not allow the relative

stability in our world to lure us to the belief that the need for total disarmament no longer exists, nor can we separate disarmament from nonproliferation. Through this, we can achieve the goal of the UN Charter of saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war and destruction.

The availability and wide circulation of small arms and light weapons pose the greatest danger to peace and security, especially in our region. These weapons have helped to prolong conflicts, [have] undermined stability, social peace, and security, and have wrought devastation on the economies of affected states. Nigeria, therefore, welcomes the agreement [of] June 2005 on an international instrument that would enable states to identify and trace illicit small arms and light weapons in a timely and reliable manner.

This is, however, only a stopgap measure. What we need is a legally binding international instrument that will regulate, control, and monitor the illicit trade in small arms, including their transfer to nonstate actors.

By pronouncing ourselves clearly and positively in that direction, member states would send a message of [our] resolve not to encourage or condone the diversion of these weapons to illicit networks.

Terrorism remains a great threat to peace and security at local, national, and international levels. It is inimical to the rule of law, human rights, democracy, and freedom; it impedes sustainable development through destabilization of states, particularly emerging democracies and nations in transition. Nigeria reaffirms its conviction that terrorism cannot be justified under any circumstance and should therefore be combated in all its forms and manifestations. To this end, my country welcomes the adoption on 13 April 2005 of the international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism and commits itself to work with others to mobilize the political will necessary to ensure the early coming into force of the comprehensive convention on terrorism. We also welcome the UN Security Council resolution against incitement of terrorism and terrorist acts.

In the last three days, we have reviewed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and what we found is that the challenges of hunger,

poverty, and disease continue to [trouble] our conscience as well as the conscience of the international community. It was our concern [regarding] these challenges that compelled African leaders to commit themselves to the ideals of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), whose principal objective was to encourage good governance, democracy, rule of law, security, stability, and macroeconomic reforms, among other [goals]. Four years on, NEPAD has made some modest progress that reflects our determination to make Africa work for Africans in an interdependent world and towards the achievement of sustainable development. NEPAD has continued to work effectively with regional economic communities to build African capacities, attract technical support for development efforts, and invest actively in feasibility studies for projects designed to change the configuration of Africa for the better. In addition to establishing a fund to generate resources internally for infrastructural development, NEPAD is also building positive relationships with important stakeholders within and beyond Africa. We have established symbiotic relationships among the ADB [African Development Bank], AU Commission, NEPAD Secretariat, regional economic communities, and donor and development agencies. I therefore urge this august assembly to continue its support for all initiatives of NEPAD.

However, notwithstanding our efforts, poverty remains endemic in Africa. The dangerous correlation between grinding poverty and alienation from government as a veritable source of political instability in the continent leaves much to be desired. We are, however, grateful for the renewed commitment of our development partners to redeem their pledges in ODA [overseas development assistance], increase foreign direct investment, remodel trading architecture, and provide better and effective technical and structural support to our efforts. We have also begun to emphasize well-managed and development-focused tourism as a veritable source of wealth and job creation and an effective contributor to several of the MDGs.

We remain committed to providing the necessary conducive environment that will encourage

investment and generate wealth and liberate our peoples from poverty. Our agricultural policies and practices are tailored to expand [so that we are] capable of feeding our people, exporting some of the produce, and providing raw materials for our industries. We are investing in new technology and improved seedlings, combating drought, exchanging information on best practices, and seeking external markets for our products.

The pivotal role of trade as a veritable engine for economic growth cannot be overstated. Access to markets of developed countries [and] withdrawal of agricultural subsidies, as well as elimination of distorting tariffs, are measures that should be addressed decisively by our industrialized development partners to enhance the ability of developing countries to benefit from trade. The successful completion of the Doha multilateral trade negotiations would be a litmus test of our resolve.

As clearly demonstrated in the past days, it is important to provide market access for goods and services from developing countries, as well as [to] ensure special and differentiated treatment and the enhancement of the productive capacities of developing countries to enable them [to] compete favourably in the global market.

I wish to recognize the statesmanship displayed by members of the Paris Club, which recently granted African countries, among others, debt cancellation and debt relief. We urge the international community to adopt an effective, comprehensive, durable, and development-oriented solution to the debt problem of developing countries, which has become for them a [broken spoke] in the wheel of development, growth, and progress.

Since 1986, the AIDS epidemic has rapidly grown into a monster all over the world. In tackling the scourge, many African countries, including Nigeria, have adopted the multisectoral response strategy recommended by the United Nations.

We have completed the review of our own national response to HIV/AIDS for the period 2001–2004 as well as the development of a new National Strategic Framework for 2005–2009.

Nigeria has followed with great interest and participated actively in the various proposals on the reform of our organization, the United

Nations. We strongly support the proposal for the establishment of a peace-building commission, since this will go a long way in filling a yawning gap in the consolidation of sustainable peace and security in post-conflict countries, particularly in Africa.

We also support the proposed Human Rights Council. However, we do not believe that the mere exchange of the Human Rights Commission with the proposed council would address perceived deficiencies in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as, unless the proposed council adopts a new culture of treating all cases of violation with a standard yardstick, [it will not be] capable of attracting wide support and generating confidence.

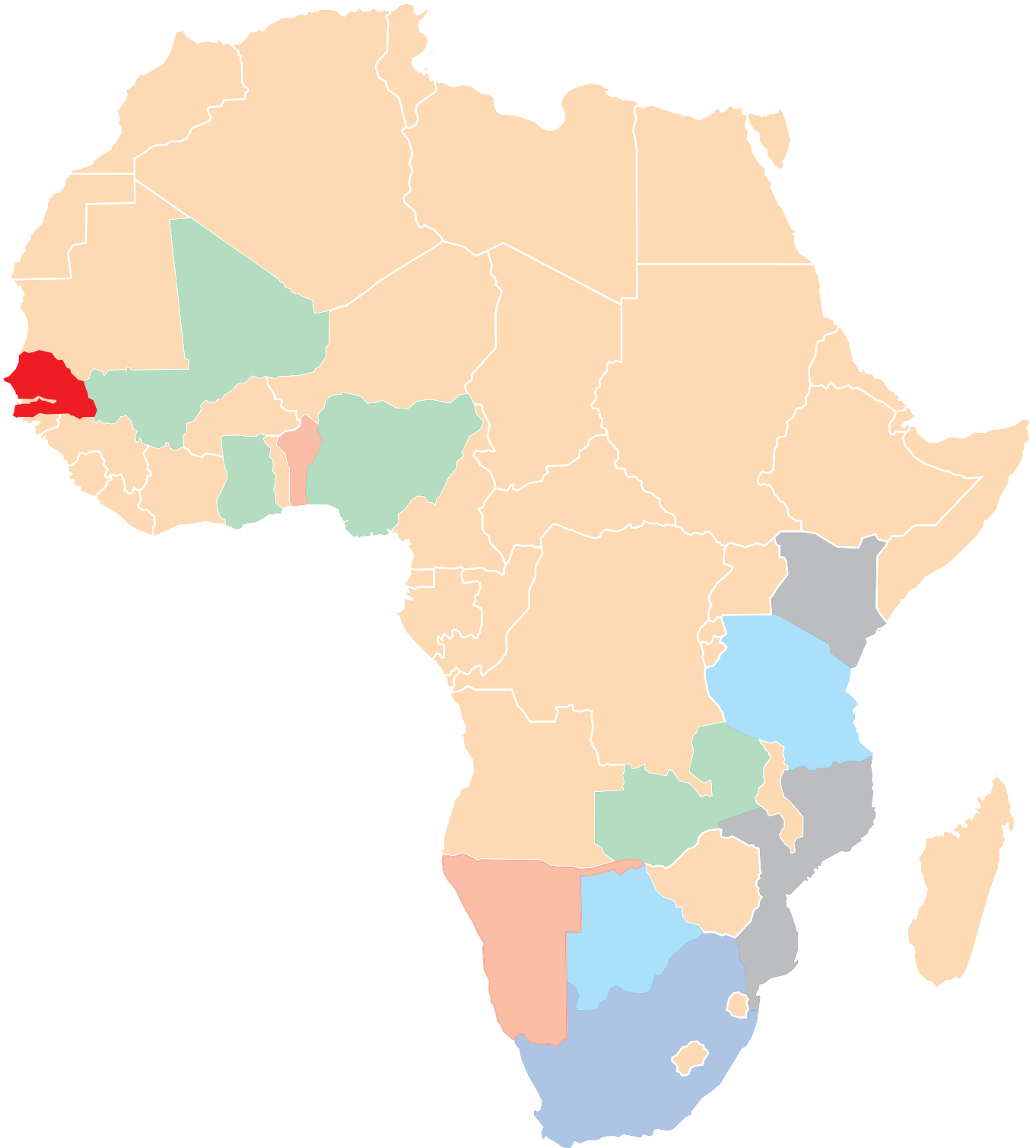
As far as the proposal for the expansion of the Security Council is concerned, Nigeria has consistently remained faithful to, as part of the AU follow-up mechanism, the implementation of the Ezulwini Consensus. We have done so without any second thoughts or [considerations of] nationality, with the sole aim of achieving the best for Africa in [its] obligatory negotiations with other regions and members of the United Nations whose support Africa must necessarily attract to achieve its fundamental requirement of increasing the number and quality of its membership in the Security Council.

Finally, as chairman of the African Union for the past year, I have had the privilege of working closely with brother African heads of state in transforming the African Union into a truly potent and effective organization for the development of [the] African people. Through our collective efforts, we have brought hope and confidence to Africa. We do not, under any circumstances, intend to waver in this renewed commitment [to] repositioning Africa for peace, security, stability, growth, sustainable development, and enduring democracy.

I am optimistic that with the invaluable cooperation of the United Nations, our development partners, and the international community on the MDGs and other NEPAD initiatives, the African Union will succeed [in] the noble objectives enshrined in its Constitutive Act.

I thank you.

SENEGAL



SENEGAL



**Speech to the Nation by His
Excellency Abdoulaye Wade,
President of the Republic of Senegal,
for the Celebration of the Forty-Fifth
Anniversary of Independence
April 4, 2005**



Tomorrow, my dear compatriots, united around the strong symbols of the republic, we will celebrate by the good grace of God the forty-fifth anniversary of our independence.

On a human scale, it is said that forty-five is the prime of life, the age of maturity and energy. On a national scale, forty-five is still a young age, sometimes a turbulent one. It is a time for learning to live together according to the values that establish and cement the common destiny of a people and its diverse components.

Our people, and I am proud of this, have matured early on by drawing on their ancestral virtues of peace, tolerance, and respect for others, and these virtues are the basis for peaceful coexistence, where differences are experienced and accepted as a source of wealth and harmony.

Embarked on the formidable adventure of building a free and prosperous nation, rooted in its own values and open to the fertilizing cross-currents from abroad, as some would put it, we are at once the depositaries, the beneficiaries, and the debtors of this rich heritage that has led us today to live with our differences in social harmony and national cohesion.

This legacy is our common good. It is the base on which rest our democracy and our efforts toward economic and social development. It defines our reason for existing and constitutes the sustaining energy that fills and fortifies our nation.

Here is why, my dear compatriots, taking the full measure of the sacred essence and dimension of this legacy, we must each day renew it, enrich it, and protect it jealously.

Entire populations have fallen into the infernal trap of confrontation and division precisely

because they ignored the fundamental virtues of the social contract: the art of dialogue, compromise, and sharing that creates, in each of a nation's constituents, the sense of not only being tolerated, but of being accepted and respected for one's dignity, existence, and beliefs.

Wisdom commands us all to stay vigilant and unified to defend these values drawn from our traditions. Recently, in Foundiougne, we resorted again to this priceless treasure to conduct peace negotiations in Casamance after the agreement of December 30, 2004.

I would like, in this respect, to reiterate the government's firm determination to pursue these negotiations until we reach a lasting peace, not just peace on paper, but a peace of hearts joined in rational fraternity. Concurrently, the reconstruction program of Casamance will proceed at the same time as government powers will be employed to continue to train and protect the populations wishing to regain their homes.

In my address of last December 31, I spoke extensively of our economic performance, our social improvements, and the execution of infrastructural readjustments by the government. These efforts will be continued and consolidated during the year 2005.

In regard to infrastructure, I particularly value the strict adherence to the norms of transparency, quality, and efficiency in the execution of our work. Expert state departments must watch attentively to ensure that work is delivered by the agreed deadline and in conformity with the terms of the contract. We pay the price, the right price. Therefore, any enterprise that does shoddy work will be held responsible before a tribunal.

I am happy to announce that our urban transport program will have a new face with the launch, by the Dakar Dem Dikk company, of four hundred and ten new vehicles to assure public transport in the city and its suburbs. I know how painful it is for our students and workers to spend long hours waiting at a bus stop. This is what we hope to end with the strengthening of the Dakar Dem Dikk fleet, a company that arose practically out of the ashes of SOTRAC [the bankrupt public-transit agency].

But we will go even further to assure better interurban transportation with our maritime taxi project, which we will launch with Malaysian partners to link Dakar, Thiaroye, Bargny, Rufisque, Saly, and Mbour.

The plan, following a precise route and schedule, is to connect, by boats, different terminals from which users will be able to take shuttle buses to their final destinations.

What is interesting about this transit system, aside from mass transportation itself, is the predictability of departure and arrival timetables, because we live in a century where rapidity and precision lead to success. Time management, organization, and systematic procedures are the determining factors in the march toward progress.

The ocean that surrounds us is a gift and an asset that we must utilize, not only for its fishing resources, but equally for the possibilities it offers of open and fluid transportation.

It is time to announce that the boat taking over for the *Joola* [the ferry that sank in September 2002] has arrived in Casablanca, where it is undergoing a final assessment before heading for Dakar. This is happening while we await the delivery of a new boat, which is being built by a German contractor.

We have placed Senegal on a launching pad to join the circle of emerging nations. It is a matter of consolidating this. That is why I have enlisted the government to undertake a vast national program of good governance whose goal is to build a working public administration free of useless overlaps and burdens, one that is more open and constantly mindful about the quality of services provided to users.

It is in this spirit that the delegation for public management must complete a full strategic and organizational audit of the administration. I take this occasion to thank the United Nations Development Program and the European Union, which support our national program of good governance. All the administrative structures involved will need to cooperate fully for the smooth operation of this exercise.

We must, without delay, institute a true mind-set revolution within the workings of our

administration. At all levels, the culture of control and sanction—negative or positive—must be instituted with the appropriate rigor to bring about changes that are both qualitative and profound.

With regard to revitalizing initiatives, the integrated system of public finance management, put in place in 2004, allows a net amelioration in the preparation and execution of the budget from now on.

The government intranet that I inaugurated last March 15 is a true revolution, the first large-scale application of TICs [communication and information technologies] in our country. Financed by the World Bank and the Consolidated Investment Budget (CIB), it conforms to the same philosophy of better performance in the execution of this administration's activities. Senegal is among the first countries in the world to have such a system and, in any case, the first in Africa. Based on a network of interconnections that link diverse state offices and institutions, it is meant to facilitate, at a lower cost, vocal communication and data transfer between linked structures.

For example, agents of connected services will reach one another by dialing only four digits instead of the usual eight. This numerical revolution will allow us to save more than CFA 2 billion [Communaute Financier Africaine] on the government telecommunications bill. Economy and speed! I should also add that it will increase security.

Eventually, the government intranet will extend to all administration services within our national territory and, more important, to our diplomatic and consular representatives abroad. Let us add that this innovative system will promote better communication not only within the administration, but also between citizens and the administration.

This qualitative leap will be accompanied by greater availability of public services to users. By April 28, both in the presidential office and in ministerial departments, "suggestion boxes" will be placed in accessible areas so that citizens can communicate their thoughts and suggestions on

the efficacy of the public service. I ask the public agencies, at all levels, to observe the rules of courtesy toward users of the public service; this service, yet again, should not be perceived as a government favor, but as an obligation pursuant to the laws and rules governing the administration.

The year 2005 brings us closer to the electoral period. I solemnly reiterate here the commitment I have already made to respect the republican calendar and to undertake all necessary measures to put in place an electoral process that is reliable in its operation and monitoring, and adequate to warrant the conditions for peaceful and transparent elections in which the polls' veracity is evidence of our citizens' free determination.

In addition, the government bill regarding the creation of an autonomous national electoral commission has already been approved by the Council of Ministers and is currently on the agenda of the National Assembly.

Having myself led the fight for more than a quarter of a century for respect for our citizens' freely expressed will, I could not accept any alteration in this ideal, which is the distinctive mark of major democracies.

The emerging Senegal that we aspire to build is largely within our reach. But it will come at the price of the effort that we are willing to take upon ourselves. It will happen through the firm belief in the principles of working well, down to and through the observation of civil norms and discipline, without which no project for economic and social development is possible. This is where the secret of advancing nations resides. I reiterate my call to all for the emergence of a new consciousness, which is indispensable for the change in attitude and methods required by the march that we have started toward a better life.

As for me, I remain today more than ever determined to dedicate all my energy to the success of this venture.

An emerging Senegal is mostly and naturally a Senegal in good health and one that is protective of its children.

I place the highest value on the struggle against AIDS and malaria, two major calamities,

the ravages of which are well-known in Africa. We have succeeded so far, thanks to an informed policy of prevention and to free care, in maintaining the level of the prevalence of AIDS to lower than 2 percent, almost comparable to that of developed countries. I insist that the relevant services involved in this fight increase their vigilance to ensure that the results are maintained and strengthened.

I have a particular interest in the healthy, rigorous, and transparent management of the funds and programs designated to fight disease. No detail of the definition and execution of fighting strategies shall be neglected. Any shortcoming must be brought up and sanctioned promptly.

But one must acknowledge the evidence. The government, by itself, cannot do everything. The risks of recurring epidemics such as cholera will always be present if there is no respect for the elementary norms of sanitation as well as individual and collective hygiene.

I now come to the protection of our children.

The prevalence of mistreated children is attaining worrisome proportions. We are witnessing daily the distressing spectacle of Talibés [thousands of orphaned and abandoned children roaming the streets of Dakar], who suffer physical cruelty and are driven to begging. These abuses, one must say forcefully, offend the conscience and our morality. We seek, through our modern Islamic schools, to offer the most welcoming, most convivial environment to prepare our children with a spiritual education in harmony with secular requirements. While we await the general expansion of modern Islamic schools, we must at the same time refuse all practices that can taint the physical or moral integrity of our children. Everyone, including and especially the parents, must take responsibility for stopping this moral drift that nothing can justify.

The government has just approved a draft bill on people-trafficking, in whatever form it might take, because, unfortunately, certain traditions are still concealing these practices from another time.

But let us put things in perspective. I know that there are many educational homes where men of God, guided by the light of faith and

knowledge, transmit to their children, with love and compassion, the knowledge that prepares them for adult life. These homes can be helped by modernizing and creating new opportunities for children.

Once again, the celebration of our independence will bear a pan-Africanist stamp thanks to the presence of the chiefs of state of friendly countries who have responded to my invitation. I would like, in the name of the Senegalese people, to very sincerely thank them for this renewed sign of fraternal esteem.

Our commitment is, first of all, the pan-Africanism embodied today by the pact of solidarity we have ratified around the African Union and NEPAD [New Partnership for Africa's Development]. Africa will remain, in our diplomatic services, a conscious choice and a priority of the highest importance. Pan-Africanism is accomplished by our politics of neighborliness and defense of the ideals of peace, democracy, and respect for human rights and freedoms.

Then, our next responsibility is the consolidation of our friendships and traditional circles of solidarity such as the Islamic Conference.

Finally, our duty is to open new horizons and to contribute to the search for novel solutions for a more welcoming world for all: a world of peace, freedom, and fraternity among peoples. The fund for numerical solidarity, a NEPAD initiative whose launch took place with great success last March 14 in Geneva, is a concrete example.

Our diplomacy, whose dynamism I salute, will always play a central role, especially when the matters in question determine the future of our country and our continent.

The conference of ambassadors, scheduled for next May in Dakar, will give us the chance to make a comprehensive review of our diplomacy and to define its direction and plan of action for the future.

As you know, the international situation has caused the countries of the Islamic Ummah to convene an extraordinary summit in Mecca in November. The proximity of such a meeting to the extraordinary summit planned for Dakar in December 2006 has led us to delay the summit at

Dakar for one year. If we take into consideration the fact that this summit will, in principle, be immediately followed by the World Summit on Islamo-Christian Dialogue, we will take advantage of this delay to effectively organize these two exceptional events, which God has conferred on Senegal the honor of coordinating.

Tomorrow's celebration is also one of youth in all its vitality; of our veterans, to whom I pay tribute; and of all the vibrant forces of our nation.

But, above all, I salute our brave armed forces, whose professionalism and fervor in combat are the pride of our nation.

These qualities, recognized and appreciated far beyond the boundaries of Africa, justify the constant appeals made to our national army for the maintenance of peace in the zones of unrest on this continent: a long tradition born at the same time as independence, since, from August 1, 1960, Senegal has taken part in the United Nations operation in the Congo Leopoldville, now the DRC [Democratic Republic of Congo], where our men are currently deployed under the banner of the United Nations Mission to the Congo.

Everywhere they go, our men serve with honor, dignity, and honesty, and always return to us with the pride of duty fulfilled.

To you all, officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers, I reiterate my confidence and my support.

Tomorrow, my dear compatriots, let us continue resolutely, to the rhythm of drums and trumpets, our march toward even more radiant horizons so that Senegal can live in a unified and prosperous Africa.

SÉNÉGAL

Message à la Nation Adressé par le Chef de l'Etat, Excellence Abdoulaye Wade, à l'Occasion de la Célébration du 45ème Anniversaire de l'Indépendance du Sénégal

4 Avril 2005

Demain, mes chers compatriotes, unis autour des symboles forts de la République, nous célébrerons par la grâce de Dieu, le 45-ème anniversaire de notre indépendance.

A l'échelle humaine, 45 ans, c'est le bel âge; celui de la maturité et de la vigueur, dit-on.

A l'échelle des Nations, 45 ans, c'est encore le jeune âge, parfois, celui des turbulences. C'est le temps d'apprendre à vivre ensemble autour des valeurs qui fondent et cimentent la communauté de destin d'un peuple dans ses diverses composantes.

Notre peuple, et j'en suis fier, a, quant à lui, mûri avant l'âge en trouvant très tôt, dans ses vertus ancestrales de paix, de tolérance et de respect de l'autre, les fondements d'une coexistence pacifique où la différence est vécue et acceptée comme source de richesse et de complémentarité.

Engagés dans cette formidable aventure qu'est l'édification d'une nation libre et prospère, enracinée dans ses propres valeurs et ouverte aux apports féconds de l'extérieur, comme dirait l'autre, nous sommes à la fois dépositaires, bénéficiaires et redevables de ce riche héritage qui nous vaut aujourd'hui de vivre nos différences dans l'harmonie sociale et la cohésion nationale.

Ce legs est notre bien commun. C'est le socle sur lequel reposent notre démocratie et nos efforts de développement économique et social. Il détermine notre raison d'être et constitue cette sève nourricière qui irrigue et fortifie notre nation.

Voilà pourquoi, mes chers compatriotes, mesurant pleinement l'essence et la dimension sacrées de ce legs, il nous faut chaque jour le renouveler, l'enrichir et le protéger jalousement.

Des peuples entiers sont tombés dans le piège infernal de l'affrontement et de la division parce que justement ils ont ignoré les vertus fondatrices du contrat social: le sens du dialogue, du compromis et du partage qui crée dans chaque composante d'une nation le sentiment de ne pas être seulement tolérée, mais acceptée et respectée dans sa dignité, son existence et ses croyances.

La sagesse nous commande à tous de rester vigilants et solidaires pour défendre ces valeurs tirées de nos traditions. Tout récemment, à Foundiougne, c'est à ce trésor inestimable que nous avons encore eu recours pour conduire les négociations de paix en Casamance, après l'accord du 30 décembre 2004.

Je voudrais, à ce sujet, réitérer la ferme détermination du gouvernement de poursuivre les pourparlers jusqu'à la paix définitive, non pas seulement la paix sur le parchemin, mais la paix des cœurs dans la fraternité rationnelle.

Parallèlement, le programme de reconstruction de la Casamance suivra son cours en même temps que les pouvoirs publics continueront l'encadrement et la protection des populations désireuses de regagner leurs foyers.

Dans mon adresse du 31 décembre dernier, je vous ai largement entretenu de nos performances économiques, de nos acquis sociaux et de l'exécution des chantiers infrastructurels du gouvernement.

Ces efforts seront poursuivis et consolidés au cours de l'année 2005.

S'agissant notamment des infrastructures, je tiens particulièrement au respect strict des normes de transparence, de qualité et d'efficacité dans l'exécution des travaux. Les services compétents de l'Etat doivent rigoureusement veiller à la livraison des ouvrages dans les délais convenus, conformément aux cahiers des charges. Nous payons le prix, le bon prix. Donc toute entreprise qui aura commis une mal façon en répondra devant les tribunaux.

Je suis heureux de vous annoncer que le programme de mobilité urbaine connaîtra un

tout nouveau visage avec la mise en circulation, par la société Dakar Dem Dikk, de 410 véhicules neufs pour assurer la desserte de la ville et de sa banlieue.

Je sais combien est pénible pour nos élèves et les travailleurs la longue attente à l'arrêt d'un bus. C'est à cela que nous voulons mettre fin avec le renforcement du parc de Dakar Dem Dikk, une société quasiment sortie du néant sur les cendres de la SOTRAC.

Mais nous irons encore plus loin pour assurer une meilleure desserte interurbaine grâce au projet de Taxis maritimes que nous lancerons avec des partenaires malaisiens pour relier Dakar-Thiaroye-Bargny-Rufisque-Saly et Mbour.

Il s'agit, suivant un circuit et des horaires précis, de relier, par des bateaux, différents terminaux à partir desquels les usagers pourront emprunter des navettes de bus pour leur destination finale.

Ce qui est intéressant dans ce système, outre le transport de masse, c'est la prévisibilité dans les horaires de départ et d'arrivée, puisque nous vivons dans un siècle où la vitesse et la précision conditionnent le succès. La gestion du temps, l'organisation et la méthode sont des paramètres déterminants dans la marche vers le progrès.

La mer qui nous entoure est un don et un atout qu'il nous faut exploiter, non pas seulement pour ses ressources halieutiques, mais également pour les possibilités de désenclavement et de fluidité dans le transport qu'elle offre.

C'est le moment de vous annoncer que le bateau qui prend le relais du Joola est arrivé à Casablanca où il fait sa dernière mise au point avant le cap sur Dakar. Ceci en attendant la livraison du bateau neuf dont la construction a été adjugée à un contractant allemand.

Nous avons mis le Sénégal sur la rampe de lancement pour qu'il intègre le cercle des nations émergentes. Il s'agit de le consolider.

C'est pourquoi j'ai engagé le Gouvernement à entreprendre un vaste Programme National de Bonne Gouvernance dont la finalité est de bâtir une administration publique performante débarrassée des chevauchements et lourdeurs inutiles, plus ouverte et constamment soucieuse de la qualité du service rendu aux usagers.

C'est dans cet esprit que la délégation au Management public devra mener à terme l'audit stratégique et organisationnel complet de l'administration. Je saisis l'occasion pour remercier le programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement et l'Union Européenne qui soutiennent le Programme National de Bonne Gouvernance.

Toutes les structures administratives concernées devront pleinement coopérer pour la bonne conduite de l'exercice.

Il nous faut, sans tarder, installer une véritable révolution des mentalités dans le fonctionnement de notre administration. A tous les échelons, la culture du contrôle et de la sanction-négative ou positive-doit être instaurée avec toute la rigueur qu'il convient pour parvenir à des mutations qualitatives et en profondeur.

Au titre des initiatives novatrices, le Système intégré de gestion des finances publiques, mis en place en 2004, permet désormais une nette amélioration dans la préparation et l'exécution du budget.

L'intranet gouvernemental que j'ai inauguré le 15 mars dernier est une véritable révolution, la première application d'envergure des TICs dans notre pays. Financé par la Banque Mondiale et le Budget Consolidé d'Investissement (BCI), il obéit à la même philosophie d'une meilleure performance dans l'exécution des activités de l'administration. Le Sénégal est l'un des tous premiers pays au monde à en disposer, en tout cas le premier en Afrique.

Il s'agit, à partir d'un réseau d'interconnexions reliant l'ensemble des administrations et diverses institutions de l'Etat, de faciliter, à un moindre coût, la communication vocale et le transfert de données entre structures reliées.

A titre d'exemple, les agents des services connectés pourront se joindre en composant seulement quatre chiffres à la place des huit habituels.

Cette révolution du numérique nous permettra ainsi une économie de plus de deux milliards sur la facture de la télécommunication du gouvernement. Economie, mais aussi rapidité! Je devrais ajouter une plus grande sécurité.

A terme, l'intranet gouvernemental s'étendra à tous les services de l'administration sur l'ensemble du territoire national et mieux, à nos représentations diplomatiques et consulaires à l'étranger.

Ajoutons que ce système novateur favorisera une meilleure communication non seulement au sein de l'administration, mais aussi avec les usagers.

Ce bond qualitatif sera accompagné par une plus grande ouverture du service public aux usagers. A partir du 28 avril, à la Présidence comme dans les départements ministériels, seront placées, en des endroits accessibles, des «boîtes à idées» où les citoyens pourront communiquer leurs réflexions et suggestions sur la marche du service public.

J'engage les pouvoirs publics, à tous les niveaux, à faire observer les règles de courtoisie à l'endroit des usagers du service public qui, encore une fois, ne doit pas être perçu comme une faveur faite à l'utilisateur, mais bien une obligation en vertu des lois et règlements régissant l'administration.

L'année 2005 nous approche des échéances électorales. Je réitère solennellement ici l'engagement que j'ai déjà donné de respecter le calendrier républicain et de faire prendre toutes les dispositions nécessaires à la mise au point d'un mécanisme électoral fiable dans son fonctionnement et son contrôle et apte à assurer les conditions d'un scrutin serein et transparent où seule la vérité des urnes sera le gage du libre arbitrage des citoyens.

Du reste, le projet de loi portant création de la Commission nationale électorale autonome a déjà été adopté en Conseil des ministres et se trouve actuellement sur le bureau de l'Assemblée Nationale.

Ayant moi-même mené un combat de plus d'un quart de siècle pour le respect de la volonté librement exprimée des citoyens, je ne saurais être celui qui admettra une quelconque altération de cet idéal qui constitue la marque distinctive des démocraties majeures.

Le Sénégal émergeant que nous avons l'ambition de bâtir est largement à notre portée.

Mais son avènement est au prix de l'effort que nous sommes disposés à consentir sur nous-mêmes. Il passe par la persévérance dans le culte du travail bien fait et l'observation des normes de civisme et de discipline sans lesquelles aucune œuvre de développement économique et social n'est possible. C'est là que réside le secret des nations qui avancent. Je réitère mon appel à tous et à toutes pour l'émergence d'une nouvelle conscience indispensable aux changements d'attitudes et de méthodes qu'exige la marche forcée que nous entamons vers le mieux être.

Pour ma part, je reste aujourd'hui plus que jamais déterminé à consacrer toute mon énergie à la réussite de ce pari.

Un Sénégal émergent, c'est surtout et naturellement un Sénégal en bonne santé et protecteur de ses enfants.

J'attache le prix le plus élevé à la lutte contre le Sida et le paludisme, deux fléaux majeurs dont les ravages sont connus de tous en Afrique. Nous avons réussi, jusqu'à présent, grâce à une politique avertie de prévention et de soins gratuits, à maintenir le taux de prévalence du Sida à un niveau inférieur à 2%, quasiment comparable à ceux des pays développés. Je tiens à ce que les services concernés redoublent de vigilance pour que ces acquis soient maintenus et renforcés.

J'accorde un intérêt particulier à une gestion saine, rigoureuse et transparente des fonds et programmes destinés au combat contre la maladie. Aucun détail dans la définition et l'exécution des stratégies de lutte ne saurait être négligé. Tout manquement devra être relevé et sanctionné avec célérité.

Mais, il faut se rendre à l'évidence. Le gouvernement, à lui seul, ne peut tout faire. Les risques de récurrence d'épidémie comme le choléra seront toujours probables sans le respect des normes élémentaires de salubrité et d'hygiène individuelle et collective.

J'en viens à la protection des enfants.

Le phénomène des enfants maltraités est en train d'atteindre des proportions inquiétantes. Nous sommes au quotidien témoins du spectacle désolant de talibés soumis à des sévices corporels, abandonnés à eux-mêmes dans la rue et livrés à la

mendicité. Ces abus, il faut le dire avec force, heurtent la conscience et le sens moral. Nous cherchons, à travers les daaras modernes, à offrir un cadre plus accueillant, plus convivial, pour préparer nos enfants à une formation spirituelle alliée aux exigences du temporel. En attendant la généralisation des daaras modernes, il nous faut, en même temps, refuser toutes pratiques portant atteinte à l'intégrité physique ou morale des enfants. Chacun, y-compris au premier chef les parents, doit prendre ses responsabilités pour arrêter cette dérive que rien ne saurait justifier.

Le gouvernement vient d'adopter un projet de loi sur le trafic des personnes sous quelque forme que ce soit, car, malheureusement, certaines traditions dissimulent encore ces pratiques d'un autre âge.

Mais, faisons bien la part des choses. Je sais qu'ils sont nombreux les foyers éducatifs où des hommes de Dieu, guidés par la lumière de la foi et du savoir, transmettent aux enfants, dans l'amour et la compassion, les connaissances qui les préparent à la vie adulte. Ces foyers-là seront plutôt aidés pour se moderniser et ouvrir de nouveaux débouchés aux enfants.

Une fois encore, la fête de notre indépendance revêtra un cachet panafricaniste avec la présence de Chefs d'Etat de pays amis qui ont bien voulu répondre à mon invitation.

Je voudrais, au nom du peuple sénégalais, les remercier très sincèrement pour cette marque renouvelée d'estime fraternelle.

Notre choix, c'est d'abord le panafricanisme, incarné aujourd'hui par le pacte de solidarité que nous avons scellé autour de l'Union Africaine et du NEPAD. L'Afrique restera pour notre diplomatie un choix conscient et une priorité de premier ordre. C'est la finalité de notre politique de bon voisinage, de défense des idéaux de paix, de démocratie et de respect des droits et libertés des peuples.

C'est ensuite la consolidation de nos amitiés et cercles de solidarité traditionnels à l'instar de la Conférence islamique.

C'est enfin l'ouverture vers de nouveaux horizons et la contribution à la recherche de solutions novatrices pour un monde plus

accueillant pour tous: un monde de paix, de liberté et de fraternité des peuples. Le Fonds de solidarité numérique, une initiative du NEPAD et dont le lancement a eu lieu avec un grand succès, le 14 mars dernier à Genève, en est une illustration concrète.

Notre diplomatie, dont je salue le dynamisme, restera toujours au cœur de l'action, surtout lorsqu'il s'agit de questions qui déterminent l'avenir de notre pays et de notre continent.

La Conférence des ambassadeurs, prévue en mai prochain à Dakar, nous donnera l'occasion de faire une revue d'ensemble de notre diplomatie et de définir ses orientations et moyens d'action pour le futur.

Comme vous le savez, la situation internationale a amené les pays de la Oummah islamique à convoquer un Sommet extraordinaire à La Mecque, en novembre. La proximité d'une telle réunion avec le Sommet ordinaire prévu à Dakar, en décembre 2006, nous a amenés à reculer la date du Sommet ordinaire de Dakar d'un an. Si l'on tient compte du fait que celui-ci sera, en principe, immédiatement suivi du Sommet mondial sur le dialogue islamo-chrétien, nous mettrons à profit ce délai supplémentaire pour bien organiser ces deux événements exceptionnels dont Dieu a gratifié le Sénégal de l'honneur de l'organisation.

La fête de demain est aussi celle de la jeunesse, dans toute sa vitalité, celle de nos anciens combattants à qui je rends un hommage appuyé, et de toutes les forces vives de la nation.

Mais elle est, par-dessus tout, celle de nos vaillantes Forces Armées dont je salue le professionnalisme et l'ardeur à la tâche qui font la fierté de la Nation.

Ces qualités, reconnues et appréciées bien au-delà des frontières africaines, justifient les sollicitations permanentes dont notre armée nationale fait l'objet pour le maintien de la paix dans les zones de conflits du continent: une longue tradition née avec l'indépendance puisque, dès le 1er août 1960, le Sénégal a pris part à l'opération des Nations Unies au Congo Léopoldville, actuelle RDC, où nos hommes sont

également déployés aujourd'hui sous la bannière de la Mission des Nations Unies au Congo.

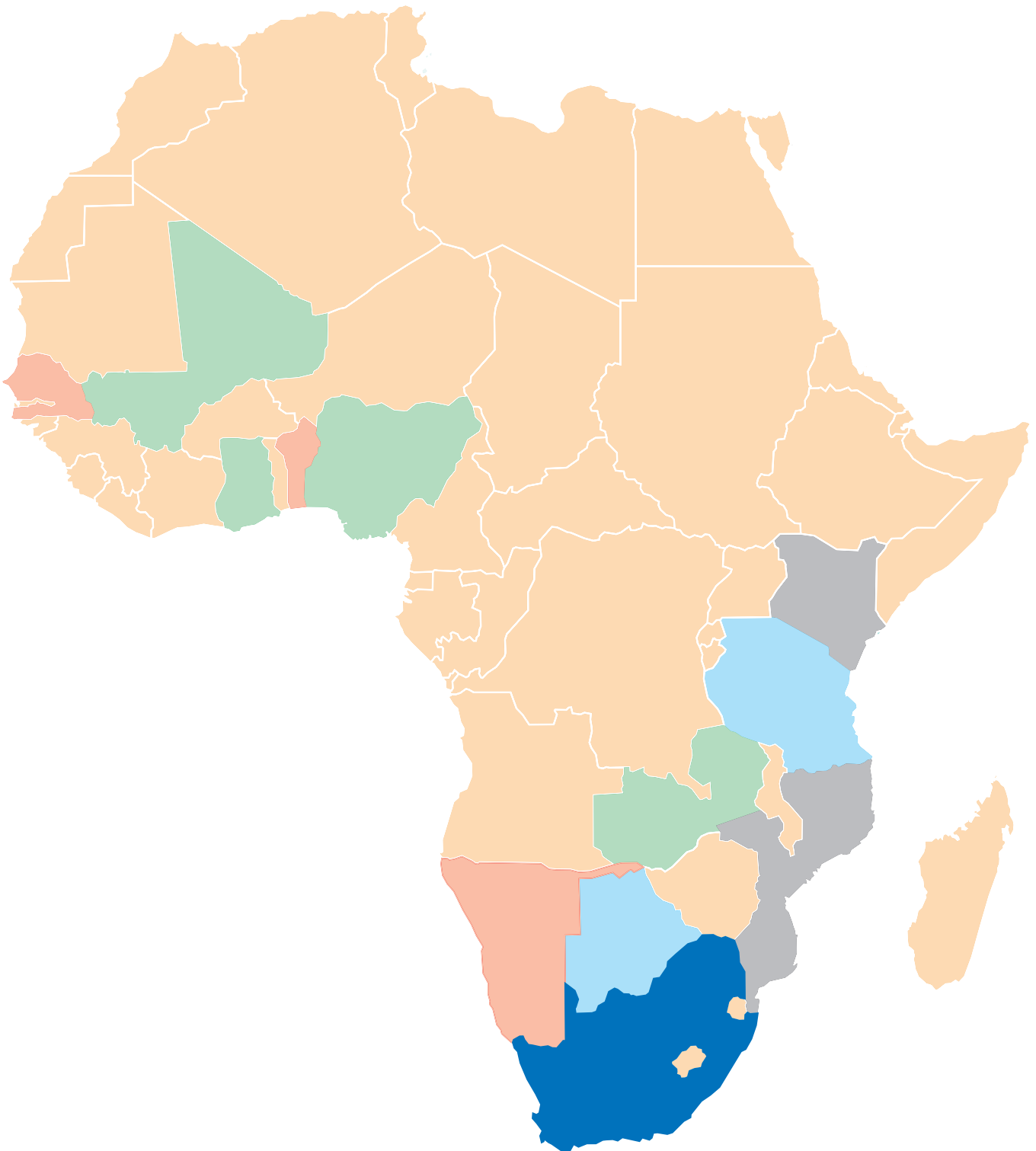
Partout où ils se rendent, nos hommes servent dans l'honneur, la dignité et l'honnêteté, et nous reviennent toujours avec la fierté du devoir accompli.

A vous tous, officiers, sous-officiers et hommes de troupes, je renouvelle ma confiance et mon soutien.

Demain, mes chers compatriotes, au rythme des tambours et des trompettes, continuons résolument notre marche vers des horizons encore plus radieux pour que vive le Sénégal dans une Afrique unie et prospère.

Bonsoir.

SOUTH AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICA



**State of the Nation Address by His
Excellency Thabo Mbeki, the
President of South Africa, at the
Opening of Parliament
11 February 2005
Cape Town**



As we open this Second Session of our Third Democratic Parliament, which will straddle the end of the First and the beginning of the Second Decade of Democracy, I am privileged to say that as a people we have every reason to be proud of our historic achievements during our First Decade of Democracy.

Central to these achievements is our success in advancing our country away from its divided past, towards the realization of the vision contained in the Freedom Charter—whose fiftieth anniversary we celebrate this year—that ‘South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white’.

Of significant interest in this regard is the fact that this year we also commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of one of the most infamous forced removals in [the history of] our country—the destruction of Sophiatown in Johannesburg and its transformation into a white group area renamed Triomf, the triumph of white supremacy.

This horrible act of violence against a people made the unequivocal and practical statement that the government of the day was determined to communicate the understanding that South Africa did not belong to all who lived in it.

But as the Honourable Members know, our constitution-makers incorporated in the 1996 Constitution the alternative vision adopted at the Congress of the People during the same year of the destruction of Sophiatown, as reflected in the Freedom Charter. Our Constitution therefore states, ‘We, the people of South Africa, believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity’.

As a consequence of the victories we have registered during our first ten years of freedom, we

have laid a firm foundation for the new advances we must and will make during the next decade.

This foundation must help us to move even further forward towards the consolidation of national reconciliation, national cohesion and unity, and a shared new patriotism born of the strengthening of the manifest reality of a South Africa that belongs to all who live in it, united in their diversity.

It must help us to take the detailed practical steps to achieve better results today and tomorrow than we did yesterday.

This means that during each one of the years that make up our Second Decade of Freedom, including this one, we must achieve new and decisive advances towards:

- the further entrenchment of democracy in our country;
- transforming our country into a genuinely nonracial society;
- transforming our country into a genuinely nonsexist society;
- eradicating poverty and underdevelopment, within the context of a thriving and growing First Economy and the successful transformation of the Second Economy;
- opening the vistas towards the spiritual and material fulfilment of each and every South African;
- securing the safety and security of all our people;
- building a strong and efficient democratic state that truly serves the interests of the people; and
- contributing to the victory of the African Renaissance and the achievement of the goal of a better life for the peoples of Africa and the rest of the world.

These objectives constitute the central architecture of our policies and programmes, intended to ensure that South Africa truly belongs to all who live in it, black and white.

We are privileged to have among us, as on previous occasions, our distinguished chief justice, Judge Arthur Chaskalson. I regret to

say that this is the last time he will be with us in these Houses of Parliament as our chief justice.

Early last year, the chief justice reminded me that 14 February 2005, three days from today, will mark the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of our Constitutional Court. He felt then that ten years was a long time for one person to hold office as the head of our apex court, as he has done.

He therefore thought it right and proper that he should take advantage of the beginning of the Second Decade of the Constitutional Court to retire from the bench. We agreed that we should meet again at the beginning of this year to consider this matter, which we have now done.

Chief Justice Chaskalson has convinced me that his own determination to continue to contribute to the [emergence] of our nation, rather than personal considerations, dictates that he should relinquish his high post. I have listened carefully to his moving argument and was similarly moved to agree to his request.

We have therefore agreed that he will be discharged from active service in our judiciary on 31 May 2005. Consequently I will take the necessary steps to consult the Judicial Service Commission and the leaders of the political parties represented in our national Parliament to determine who will be our next chief justice from 1 June 2005.

I am privileged to have the opportunity on this important occasion on our national calendar to convey our thanks to and [to] salute a great son of our people, Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson. I trust that later this year, Parliament will give all of us an opportunity to bid this giant among the architects of our democracy the fitting farewell that the constraints of time today prohibit.

On behalf of the nation, I am honoured to convey our humble thanks to you, Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson, for everything you have done as a South African, a lawyer, and a judge to shepherd us towards the construction of a South Africa that truly belongs to all who live in it.

Also among us, both as Honourable Members and guests, are the volunteers who trudged the expanse of our country more than five decades ago to gather the views of South Africans with

regard to the kind of alternative society they wished to see, which culminated in the Congress of the People held fifty years ago that adopted the Freedom Charter.

It is a tribute to their foresight, courage, and humanism that the product of their labours, the Freedom Charter, finds its reflection in the basic law of our land, our Constitution.

One of those volunteers is with us today. We are happy today to express the gratitude of the nation to Madoda Nsibande and [to] others.

Also among us is John Nkadimeng, a volunteer himself and founder-leader of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), which was formed fifty years ago. We also have with us Chris Dlamini, representing the corps of worker-leaders who brought together various unions to establish COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] twenty years ago, the bearer of the baton of progressive trade unionism in our country.

Through their efforts, which we acknowledge in this chamber today, John Nkadimeng, Chris Dlamini, and their colleagues ensured that we can today say with pride that South Africa also belongs to all the working people of our country.

Allow me to acknowledge also the late Gavin Relly, Zac de Beer, and Tony Bloom, who led the delegation that braved the threats and scorn of the then apartheid regime, to meet Oliver Tambo and other leaders of the liberation movement in Lusaka in 1985.

I would also like to pay tribute to the late Kobie Coetsee, who twenty years ago initiated the first contact between the apartheid regime and Nelson Mandela, which led, among other things, to the release of Nelson Mandela fifteen years ago today.

We further acknowledge the family of the artist Thami Mnyele, one of those who twenty years ago were killed in their sleep by soldiers of the SADF [South African Defence Force] who carried out an act of aggression in Gaborone, Botswana, targeting those of our people it had driven into exile. Also among us in this chamber today is Helena Dolny, representing the family of Joe Slovo, who passed away ten years ago. As all

of us know, in addition to everything else he did as an architect of our democracy, Joe Slovo started the programme that would make the homeless feel that South Africa belongs to them as well.

We are honoured that these esteemed South Africans have taken time to be with us today, to give us the privilege to salute them and their loved ones.

Like Angel Jones and Marina Smithers of the Homecoming Revolution, we know very well that today our country and continent provide the best and most promising locations for the solution of many of the problems that trouble the whole of humanity. All of us face the task to respond to this historic challenge.

In May last year, in the aftermath of our third democratic elections, we set out the Government Programme of Action to achieve higher rates of economic growth and development, improve the quality of life of all our people, and consolidate our social cohesion.

We did this confident that the progress we had made in the First Decade of Freedom provided the platform for us to move forward faster, with better quality of outputs and better outcomes in building a society that cares.

With regard to the economy, a recent report of the Rand Merchant Bank prepared by the economist Rudolf Gouws says:

Real domestic output growth accelerated through last year to reach an annualized 5.6 percent in the third quarter—a rate last seen in 1996—with contributions coming from all sectors of the economy. In terms of economic growth, South Africa has long been underperforming its emerging-market peer group, but the newfound higher-growth path is bringing the country more in line with other successful emerging-market nations. . . .

The current economic upswing, which began in September 1999, is not only the longest upward phase of the business cycle in the post-World War II period, but should also be sustainable into the future. One of the reasons is that the economy is

in the process of changing from one driven predominantly by consumption (government as well as households) to one driven to a greater degree by fixed investment. . . .

As a consequence of the stronger growth, the employment picture in South Africa has gradually begun to improve. While South Africa certainly still has a major unemployment problem, there are encouraging signs.

Gouws comments on what he calls 'government's good track record of implementing prudent fiscal policies' and continues:

But the improvements in overall government finances were not brought about primarily to please the financial markets and the rating agencies, but rather to ensure that government is able to deliver services to the population in a sustainable way. Concurrent with the turnaround in public finances were important institutional changes and improvements in the ability of government to deliver.

He concludes by saying:

Faster growth, coupled with efforts to improve the environment for doing business and addressing the plight of the poor more effectively, means improved chances for a sustainable improvement in the general welfare of all South Africans.

We agree with the observations made by Rudolf Gouws. Indeed, because of the factors he mentioned, we have, for instance, with 90 percent coverage of most social grants, almost met the objective we set for ourselves in 2002 of ensuring that all who are eligible for these grants receive them within three years.

Last December we passed the 10 million mark in terms of South Africans who have gained access to potable water since 1994. Free basic water of six kilolitres per household per month is now being provided to about three-quarters of

households in the areas of our country that have the infrastructure to supply potable water.

Since 1994 close to 2 million housing subsidies have been allocated to the poor. Education remains our largest single budgetary item, with primary-school enrolment rates remaining steady at about 95.5 percent since 1995 and secondary-school enrolments currently at 85 percent.

The gross annual value of the social wage was about ZAR 88 billion in 2003, with the poor being the largest beneficiaries. The democratic state will not walk away from its obligation to come to the aid of the poor, bearing in mind available resources.

In this context, we must also refer to the latest report of the UNISA [University of South Africa] Bureau of Market Research on *National Personal Income of South Africans by Population Group, Income Group, Life Stage, and Lifeplane 1960–2007*.

Among other things, this report says:

In 2001, 4.1 million out of 1,122 million households in South Africa lived on an income of ZAR 9,600 and less per year. This decreased to 3.6 million households in 2004, even after taking the negative effect of price increases on spending power into account. On the other hand, the number of households receiving a real income of ZAR 153,601 and more per annum rose from 721,000 in 1998 to more than 1.2 million in 2004.

The additional social expenditures we have mentioned demonstrate what Rudolf Gouws was referring to when he said that 'the improvements in overall government finances were [brought about] to ensure that government is able to deliver services to the population in a sustainable way'.

On the other hand, reflecting on one element of the programme that we announced last May—the issue of school infrastructure—the editor of *City Press* said correctly that:

the backlog of classrooms still runs into several thousand nationwide. . . . [W]e believe that addressing the crisis in educa-

tion is perhaps the most urgent priority. . . . The March deadline will not be met. . . . [Government] must work out a plan that will ensure the speedy delivery of classrooms to all.

Overall, our own detailed assessment of the implementation of our programme of action reveals that of the 307 concrete actions contained in the government's programme, some of which we announced in the last State of the Nation address:

- 51 percent of those with specific time frames have been undertaken or are being undertaken within the deadlines we set;
- 21 percent have been or are being undertaken, though there were slight delays in terms of the time frames that we had set ourselves; and
- 28 percent have not been fully carried out, and the reasons behind the delays are such that new deadlines will have to be set for their accomplishment.

In other words, 72 percent of these programmes are being carried out within the broad framework of the time frames we had set ourselves. Eighty-six percent of the concrete actions that did not have specific time frames are progressing as envisaged, while 14 percent show some delays that call for urgent attention by government.

I wish to thank our colleagues in cabinet, the provincial executive [councils] and municipal executive councils, [and] the public service, as well as the leadership of our social partners who have put shoulders to the wheel to ensure that we carry out that which is expected of us jointly and severally to meet our common national objectives.

We also highly appreciate the oversight role as well as the direct contribution [to] the crucible of actual implementation of our public representatives in all the three spheres of government. We are confident that Honourable Members will persist in this service to the people so as to improve our work all round.

What then is the programme of government for the year, and how shall we build on the work

done in the past decade in general and the past nine months in particular?

As Honourable Members will know, the details of the actions in each of last year's programmatic areas have been published on the government website. I shall therefore only identify the major issues in terms of our past work, and then outline some of the things that need to be done in the coming year.

With regard to interventions to grow the First Economy, the broad objectives we set for ourselves remain the same. We will continue our consultations with our social partners to ensure that our economy continues to steam ahead, as Rudolf Gouws predicted.

Our programme for the coming year is premised on the broad objectives to increase investment in the economy, lower the cost of doing business, improve economic inclusion, and provide the skills required by the economy. Therefore the details outlined in May last year [2004], to the extent that the tasks are ongoing, remain an integral part of the programme.

On infrastructure, we have since May 2004 developed strategies and investment plans upward of ZAR 180 billion in relation to transport logistics, electricity, and water resources. We would like to cite only two instances in this regard.

Transnet Ltd. has already approved business plans for new investments in the Durban and Cape Town harbours, as well as the construction of a new pipeline between Durban and Johannesburg. As it brings three previously decommissioned power stations into operation, Eskom will add ZAR 5.86 billion to the GDP [gross domestic product] by 2007, with new jobs created peaking during the same year at thirty-six thousand.

We have also taken steps the better to manage administered prices, through the actions of independent regulators as well as through more rigorous monitoring, which will see an administered price index produced by the official statisticians from the first quarter of this year.

Discussions continue with the steel and chemical industries, in particular to reach agreement on the issue of import parity pricing.

Government has decided to avoid using legislation or regulations even in the face of these obvious market failures.

We believe that there is growing consensus among economic role-players with regard to what we are seeking to do. This is to ensure that, working especially with the producers of inputs that are strategic for economic growth, we find a resolution to this matter in a manner that addresses the interests of both these producers and the downstream industries.

Bold steps have been taken further to liberalize the telecommunications industry. We believe that the unacceptable situation in which some of our fixed line rates are ten times those of developed OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development] countries will soon become a thing of the past. We also hope that the delays in setting up the second national operator, arising from legal processes [that] are beyond [the] government's control, will be resolved in due course and as soon as possible.

Further work has been done to improve the work of defining and implementing sectoral charters, as agreed at the Growth and Development Summit in 2003.

In this regard, I especially and warmly welcome the decision of the South African banks to implement the provisions of the Financial Sector Charter, as a result of which they have made a public three-year commitment to provide at least ZAR 85 billion to finance low-cost housing, infrastructure, black small-business enterprises, and new black farmers.

Elements of the codes of good practice for broad-based black economic empowerment have been released for public comment, and once this process is finalized, it will then be possible to appoint the Black Economic Empowerment Advisory Council. Related to these efforts is the progress made in setting up the Small Enterprise Development Agency to improve our government's performance in the critical area of the development of small and medium enterprises.

With the commitments from the private sector as demonstrated by the banks, it is clear that together as South Africans we are set to

make a determined effort to speed up broad-based black economic empowerment and small-business development.

In this regard, I would like to mention and welcome the announcement made by the CEO of [the] Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, Lazarus Zim, in the last few days, indicating the large resources his company will spend to empower a great number of black enterprises.

To ensure properly focused development planning, cabinet is working to align the National Spatial Development Perspective with the Provincial Growth and Development Strategies and the municipal Integrated Development Plans.

To increase the numbers of skilled workers, we have met the target set by the Growth and Development Summit and trained more than eighty thousand learners. We have also released the draft immigration regulations for public comment.

It is, however, clear that more work will have to be done to raise the skill levels of our people. Accordingly, the government has approved a new National Skills Development Strategy for the period 2005–2010. ZAR 21.9 billion over five years will be allocated to fund this strategy, which will include improved cooperation between the SETAs [Sector Education and Training Authorities] on one hand and the further-training and education colleges and the institutions of higher education on the other.

At the same time, we have taken note of the reasons for the delay in implementing some of the announced programmes. These include the complexities of the tasks to be carried out, the rigour required in planning and implementing these actions across all the spheres, the magnitude of resources demanded, and the subjective capacity of the implementing agents where at least financial resources were made available.

In this regard, government will ensure that the outstanding tasks are attended to within the next three months. These are:

- finalizing the governmentwide review of performance practices in state-owned enterprises;

- finalizing discussions, especially in the context of the Financial Sector Charter, on investing 5 percent of investable capital of financial institutions in productive activity;
- completing the strategy on better utilization of the Isibaya Fund of the Public Investment Commission;
- investing ZAR 220 million from the Rail Commuter Corporation Ltd. for commuter transport and safety;
- improving the effectiveness of the skills-development structures in government for the implementation of the Human Resources Development Strategy;
- completing the register of all graduates; and
- using the review of SETAs to bring about the necessary changes in the supervision and governance of these authorities.

In consultation with our social partners, a number of constraints limiting our capacity to embark on a higher-growth path will receive our urgent attention.

Based on the review of the regulatory framework as it applies to small, medium, and micro enterprises before the end of the year, government will complete the system of exemptions for these businesses with regard to taxes [and] levies, as well as central bargaining and other labour arrangements, enabling these to be factored into the medium-term expenditure cycle.

The system of tax and levy payments and business registration will be reviewed, with the aim of introducing a simpler and streamlined system for all businesses by April 2006.

The capital investment programme of government will be speeded up, focusing on housing, rural and urban infrastructure, public transport and national logistics system, water, and electricity. In part to facilitate this, urgent steps will be taken to strengthen the public-private partnership mechanism in government by December 2005. At all times these partnerships should involve local communities.

New steps are also being considered [in companies] with international investors to improve foreign-capital inflows. In order to further improve

the capacity of government to service the needs of investors, specialist capacity in the Department of Trade and Industry will be beefed up.

Within the next nine months, we will make a special effort to finalize sector-development strategies and programmes with regard to:

- chemicals, business outsourcing, and tourism, which will receive additional immediate support;
- ICT [information and communications technology] and telecommunications, agroprocessing, [and] community and social services; and
- wood and paper, appliances, [and] the retail and construction industries.

As we have asserted, success in the growth of our economy should be measured not merely in terms of the returns that accrue to investors or [of] the job opportunities [that accrue] to those with skills. Rather, [economic success] should also manifest in the extent to which [those] marginalized in the wilderness of the Second Economy are included and are at least afforded sustainable livelihoods. South Africa belongs to them, too, and none of us can in good conscience claim to be at ease before this becomes and is seen to become a reality.

During the past nine months, we [have] started to put the Expanded Public Works Programme into operation. To date, we have spent over ZAR 1.5 billion, created over seventy-six thousand job opportunities, and begun to afford thousands of those enrolled with the skills that will stand them in good stead as they leave the programme.

A critical element in assisting those in the Second Economy is provision of information, particularly regarding how they can access economic opportunities. In this regard, the targeted communication campaign on economic opportunities occupies a central place. We hope to partner [with] the media, particularly the public broadcasters, to bring this information to many more people.

To assist in this regard, some five hundred community development workers have been

enrolled as learners in Gauteng, Northern Cape, the Northwest, and the Eastern Cape. Management structures have also been put in place to ensure the optimal utilization of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant.

To take the interventions in the Second Economy forward, the following additional programmes will be introduced or further strengthened by April 2005 as part of the Expanded Public Works Programme and [will be] focused on providing training, work experience, and temporary income, especially to women and youth.

These are:

- the early-childhood-development programme, based on community participation, having ensured a common approach among all three spheres of government—the necessary additional funding will be provided;
- increasing the numbers of community health workers, having harmonized training standards and increased resources allocated to the programme; and
- the more extensive use of labour-intensive methods of construction targeting housing, schools, clinics, sports facilities, community centres, and the services infrastructure.

Further, business plans for the agricultural-credit scheme have been approved. We will ensure that it becomes operational within the next three months, with the capital of ZAR 1 billion already allocated. This scheme forms part of the broader small- and microcredit initiative, to enable those formerly excluded the opportunity to access credit for productive purposes.

In addition, ZAR 100 million has been transferred to provinces for the implementation of the farmer-support programme. The South African Microfinance Apex Fund, the launch of which was delayed, will also become operational in this period. The bill on cooperatives has been submitted to Parliament for finalization.

Emphasis in all these Second Economy programmes will be put on those areas already identified for urban renewal and rural development.

[To] better understand the dynamics in the Second Economy and [to] ensure effective

targeted interventions, a socioeconomic survey of these communities will be conducted during the course of 2005. These surveys will then be carried out in three-year intervals.

With regard to the social sector, government has continued to allocate more resources and put in more effort to provide services to society at large and a safety net for the indigent. Project Consolidate of the Department of Provincial and Local Government will further increase the capacity of the municipalities to improve our performance in these areas.

In addition, campaigns to reduce noncommunicable and communicable diseases as well as unnatural causes of death will continue, through the promotion of healthy lifestyles and increased focus on TB [tuberculosis], HIV/AIDS, malaria, [and] cholera and other waterborne diseases, and generally increasing the standard of living of the poorest among us.

Broad trends in mortality confirm the need for us to continue to pay particular attention to the health of our nation. With regard to AIDS in particular, the government's comprehensive plan, which is among the best in the world, combining awareness, treatment, and home-based care, is being implemented with greater vigour.

As Honourable Members would know, a new housing strategy has been adopted, and increased resources will be allocated to meet the objectives that we have set ourselves.

We are also confident, given the evidence of progress thus far, that the various interventions in the area of education and training, including the merger of institutions of higher learning, improved teaching and learning especially in mathematics and natural sciences, and provision of additional support to schools in poor areas, will produce positive results as planned. In this regard, we are pleased to indicate that, in addition to allocations already announced for the salaries of educators, more resources will be allocated for this purpose in the new financial year.

Our social-sector programme for the coming year will include the intensification of the programmes we identified last year to meet our long-term objectives, such as the provision of clean running water to all households by 2008,

decent and safe sanitation by 2010, and electricity for all by 2012.

We do acknowledge that there have been delays in carrying out some of the programmes. Further effort will be put into clearing the log-jams. With regard to the provision of safe classrooms, for instance, we had committed ourselves in 2002 to ensure that within three years no child studied under a tree.

As the editor of *City Press* suggested, our schools' infrastructure programme will not be realized even within the set time frame. The same applies to the commitment we made last year that all schools would have potable water and sanitation by the end of this financial year.

We will later come back to the challenges of capacity in government as illustrated by the failure to meet these challenges. Suffice it to indicate that during the course of this year, we will:

- update the schools' register of needs and iron out the rough creases among the implementing agents within and across the spheres of government to ensure that we meet the objective of safe classrooms and healthy environments in our schools in as short a time as possible;
- allocate additional resources over the next three years to cover outstanding claims in the land-restitution programme;
- complete discussions with Eskom, the provincial governments, and local municipalities to ensure that free basic electricity is provided to all with minimum delay;
- improve the capacity of municipalities to ensure that the target of providing sanitation to three hundred thousand households per year is met as from 2007;
- continue the battle to ensure that all citizens have access to affordable medicines; and
- intensify the programme to refurbish hospitals and provide more professionals, especially in rural areas.

We shall also during the course of this year launch the South African Social Security Agency and implement systematic plans against corrup-

tion, including definitions of disability and allocations of the foster-care grant.

In relation to a broader understanding of our society—the macrosocial state of our nation—research has been completed and discussion has taken place in cabinet covering such issues as social structure and social mobility; demographics and dynamics with regard to such categories as race, language, religion, gender, age, and disability; social organization in terms of the family and civic participation; as well as matters pertaining to identity and social values. Government will in the next three months examine the implications of this research on policy, and, if necessary, relevant decisions will be taken to enhance our work in strengthening social cohesion.

As we indicated last May, we have set out to ensure that during the Second Decade of Freedom we improve the machinery of government so that, wherever we are, each one of us is inspired to act as [a] servant of the people.

As we have already indicated, we have started to recruit community development workers. We want to ensure that community development workers are deployed in each local municipality by March 2006.

The institution of izimbizo is growing, with a larger number of events involving all spheres of government, better follow-up, and greater depth in terms of house-to-house visits. We have launched the Batho Pele Gateway to afford citizens the platform to access information and, later, services by electronic means.

Over sixty-five multipurpose community centres have been launched, and by the second half of this year, each district and metropolitan council will have its own centre. Plans have been approved for the construction of hundreds more such centres, so that by the end of the decade, each municipality would have a one-stop government hub.

In order to ensure effective leadership of the public service, we have completed a review of skills and levels of competence within the Senior Management Service. Plans will be put in place to fill the gaps where they exist.

At [the] local government level, more than 80 percent of ward committees have been set up. Work is continuing to ensure their proper functioning. Through Project Consolidate, one hundred thirty-six municipalities at risk are being assisted to put their houses in order. Because of our appreciation of the centrality of local government to service delivery, we have ensured the doubling of the municipal budget over the past eight years. We will continue to increase the resources available to local government.

To improve integration among all spheres of government in both policy development and implementation, the Inter-Governmental Relations Framework Bill has been finalized and is awaiting processing by the two Houses of our national Parliament. This will be complemented by the alignment of spatial and development strategies and planning cycles among all the three spheres of government.

Certainly it is a reflection of weaknesses in the governance system that the plans to build school infrastructure are unfolding at a much slower pace than envisaged. The public sector as a whole cannot claim to be such if the benefits of free basic electricity are accruing mainly to those who are relatively well-off. That only 56 percent of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant had been allocated to municipalities by December is a reflection of [a] lack of all-round capacity, particularly in technical areas with regard to water, sanitation, and public-works projects.

And the labourious decision-making process is not helping either.

We can refer to the provision of services across all the spheres or [to] weaknesses in the implementation of the urban-renewal and rural-development programmes, and the conclusion will be the same. We need massively to improve the management, organizational, technical, and other capacities of government so that it meets its objectives.

In this regard, the following programme will be implemented during the course of the coming year:

By May, the Forum of South African Directors-General will submit to cabinet a thor-

ough review of the functioning of the government system as a whole and [will] make proposals particularly on the capacity of the implementing agents, skills, and competence within the public service, alignment of planning and implementation, and issues pertaining to the mobilization of the public service to speed up social transformation.

By the end of the year, an improved Batho Pele campaign, including unannounced site visits, name badges, and enhanced internal communication within the public service, will be visibly asserted. In this regard, we need to have an ongoing national programme to entrench the ethos of Letsema and Vuk'uzenzele among all our people and ensure that these values permeate the work of government, business, labour, and communities.

In this context, we must also make a determined effort to educate our population that our country does not have the resources immediately to meet simultaneously all the admittedly urgent needs of our people, especially the poor. All of us must understand the stark reality that even illegal violent demonstrations will not produce these resources and will be met with the full force of the law. At the same time, we have to deal with those within the public service who, because of their negligence and tardiness, deny many of our people services due to them in instances where resources have been made available to deliver these services.

The programme to improve services through gateway and multipurpose community centres will be intensified.

By June this year, the plan to improve [the] monitoring and evaluation [process within] government, including the electronic information-management system, will have been completed for phased implementation.

We shall also intensify the programme to expand employment in the public service, particularly among the police, education, and health professionals as well as [in] sections providing economic services across all spheres.

During the course of this year we will speed up the implementation of the comprehensive plan to improve the capacity of the national statistics system, including Statistics South Africa.

By June 2005, we will complete the review of gender balances as well as representation of people with disabilities within the public service against the targets that government had set itself. We do hope that as part of their own contribution to the transformation of South African society, and in the context of the obligation to meet the requirements of our laws, the private sector will do the same.

Collectively, we need to fight the tendency to act according to particular stereotypes, described so succinctly by Steven Friedman, an analyst at the Centre for Policy Studies:

In business and the professions too deeply pervasive prejudices decide who has ability and who not. . . . [I]t is dressed up as support for 'merit' and it infests the thinking of many who believe, genuinely, that they are not prejudiced. . . . And the effect in lost performance, loss of self-esteem and anger from the thwarted is much the same. It may well cost us far more lost growth and achievement than all the other factors we often cite.

Within three months, a summit on corruption will be convened to review experiences across all sectors of society and agree on a programme to strengthen the campaign, including structures set up to deal with this challenge.

Two weeks ago, on 27 January, we celebrated the day on which, ten years ago, the South African Police Service Act was promulgated. Government took the decision to declare this our National Police Day not only to mark the formal establishment of a new police service of a democratic South Africa, but also to pay tribute to the men and women who have put their lives on the line in defence of the safety and security of the citizens.

Let me take this opportunity once more to congratulate the management and our police service as a whole and reassure them that their efforts are appreciated by all law-abiding South Africans and that we shall continue to work with them to protect the security and dignity of all who live in South Africa.

The progress that we are making in dealing with crime is manifest in the ongoing reduction in the rates, especially of the most serious crimes.

The trend in the past financial year, which has seen the rates of such crimes as murder decline by 8 percent, theft of motor vehicles and motor-cycles by 5.4 percent, common robbery by 5.9 percent, cash-in-transit heists by 48.7 percent, and bank robberies by 57.5 percent, should continue and in fact improve in subsequent years.

Yes, there are crimes, such as aggravated robbery and child abuse, which show an increase. Yes, the level of crime, especially violent incidents, remains unacceptable. But we are confident of meeting our target to reduce the rate of contact crimes by 7–10 percent per year.

As planned, the security agencies have set up task teams to identify, apprehend, and convict the gang leaders of organized crime and other perpetrators of serious crimes. Of those involved in organized crime, sixty-seven out of [the] ninety-six identified have been arrested. The same deserved fate has befallen forty out of forty-two [of those] identified for commercial crimes involving cases above ZAR 5 million and other projects valued at ZAR 50 million. Sixty-one of the sixty-two involved in violent crime including cash-in-transit and other robberies as well as serial murder and serial rape have been arrested. In brief, one hundred sixty-eight of the top two hundred identified have been apprehended.

In terms of the methodology of the police service, to identify a broader group of top criminals using criteria related to repeat offending, the net of our intense focus will be cast wider so as to include individuals and gangs whose arrest is sure to improve the safety of communities in all regions of the country.

As Honourable Members would know, an additional allocation of ZAR 2.3 billion was announced last October to improve the salaries of members of the police service. I am pleased to indicate that more resources will be added to what has already been allocated. Further, to improve our capacity to fight crime, an additional eight thousand members and three thousand support staff have been recruited into the service since May 2004.

At the same time, in the period since our last address to this joint sitting, we have completed the terms of reference for the comprehensive review of the criminal justice system, launched the Service Charter for Victims of Crime, and started training those who will provide the services that derive from the charter. We have also launched three community courts and started eight pilots in six provinces, and we have started phasing in units of the police service for improved border control.

In the coming year, we shall continue with all these and other programmes to:

- speed up the setting up of community courts beyond the pilot projects so as to have at least two such courts per province;
- give life to the ‘victims’ charter’ through reorientation of the implementing personnel, [provision of] information to citizens, and, where applicable, legislation to regulate this service;
- expand the number of police areas for focused multidisciplinary interventions from sixty-three to one hundred sixty-nine;
- strengthen partnerships with business and communities, including the expansion of the coverage of closed-circuit television in more metropolitan centres;
- further improve law enforcement and security at ports of entry;
- improve monitoring of caseloads to reduce case-cycle time and improve performance of justice officers through the revitalization of the Justice College;
- rapidly reduce the number of children in police and prison custody, with emphasis on KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape, and Gauteng provinces;
- complete, by April 2007, four additional correctional facilities while introducing a new ethos in the treatment of offenders in order to reduce recidivism;
- operationalize more sexual-offences courts, taking into account that the conviction rate in these courts (at 62 percent) is much higher than in ordinary courts (at 42 percent),

and improve the capacity of all dedicated courts, including those dealing with car hijacking; and

- review the Foreign Military Assistance Act in order to discourage, for their own good and the good of the country, those who seek to profit from conflict and human suffering such as in Iraq.

We shall do all this, conscious of the responsibility that we have not only to our own citizens, but also to the rest of humanity in pursuing the goal of a better world.

In the first instance, our greatest challenge in this regard is to consolidate the African agenda, and we can draw inspiration from the many positive developments on the continent since we addressed the joint sitting of Parliament last May.

In our regional community, SADC [South African Development Community], the people of Botswana, Mozambique, and Namibia have held yet new democratic elections. In Mozambique and Namibia, they also ensured the passing of the baton of leadership in an exemplary manner. Progress is being made to strengthen SADC, and we are honoured that South Africa currently chairs the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security. We are pleased with the progress being made towards the formation of the SADC Peacekeeping Brigade, which will form part of the AU [African Union] Standby Force.

Today South Africa enjoys the singular honour of being the permanent venue for the Pan-African Parliament, and we form part of the AU Peace and Security Council. We thank the president of the Pan-African Parliament for her presence in the House today.

During the coming year, we shall continue to strengthen our contribution to the efforts of humanity to build a world in which each [person] can feel a sense of belonging and of enjoying an improving quality of life.

In addition to the ongoing tasks already identified in the programme presented last May:

We will ensure more deliberate application to the task of revamping SADC management

structures and speeding up the integration of our economies on the subcontinent, including the implementation of infrastructure projects already identified with regard to transport and energy.

We will finalize our preparations for South Africa's peer review assessment, working with partners in civil society. We will also play our part in ensuring a successful launch of the continent-wide civil-society council, the AU ECOSOCC [Economic, Social, and Cultural Council], during the course of this month.

We also wish to pay tribute to our national defence force for the consistent role they are playing as part of the midwives of peace, stability, and prosperity in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and Darfur in Sudan. With regard to the DRC and Burundi in particular, they have contributed to the fact that we can [say] with some measure of confidence that our brothers and sisters in these countries will, this year, at last exercise their right to choose governments based on the will of the people.

It is our fervent wish—and we shall continue to contribute to the achievement of this objective—that the leaders and people of Côte d'Ivoire find one another to implement all the necessary steps to end the crisis in their country, creating the possibility for the holding of democratic presidential elections in October 2005 in a unified country.

The current unconstitutional charade in Togo, following the death of President Gnassingbe Eyadema, which ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] and the AU are confronting firmly, adds to instability in West Africa. This must communicate the message to the people of Côte d'Ivoire and the rest of our continent that everything must be done to solve the Ivorian crisis, given the importance of this country, which has the third-largest economy in sub-Saharan Africa.

We shall continue to work with the government and people of Zimbabwe, as part of the SADC collective, to ensure that the elections they are to hold in less than two months are free and fair.

We shall also continue our engagement with the Kingdom of Swaziland to help where we can

in the efforts to construct a constitutional dispensation that enjoys the confidence of all.

We have begun to do our work as the convenor of the African Union's Committee on Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Sudan, and will focus on this task to contribute to the successful implementation of the vitally important Sudan peace settlement signed last month in Nairobi.

We have also taken the first steps to engage the new government of Somalia, at the request of its president, to assist in the challenging process of the reconstitution of what had become a failed state.

We shall continue playing our role to ensure the success of the AU and its programme, NEPAD [New Partnership for Africa's Development]. Our finance minister and other African leaders serve on the Commission for Africa established by the British prime minister, Tony Blair, who will chair both the G8 [Group of Eight] and European Union this year, and whose objective is to ensure the effective implementation of the G8 Africa Action Plan adopted by the G8 governments to support NEPAD.

We will continue to work with the UK [United Kingdom] and other members of the G8 to ensure that the July summit meeting of this group produces the practical results with regard to the NEPAD and G8 Africa Action Plan objectives already agreed between Africa and the G8.

South Africa has had the privilege, in the past eight months, to host President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti and his family, fulfilling our responsibility to Africa and the African Diaspora. We are indeed very happy that President and Mrs. Aristide are with us in this House today. To contribute to efforts aimed at ensuring that the people of Haiti know peace and prosperity, we are working with the African Union, the Caribbean community, and the United Nations to normalize the situation in that country so that democratic elections can be held later this year, as scheduled. In the next two months, we will take part in a South Africa, African Union, Caribbean Diaspora Conference, which we hope will lead to a global conference in the near future.

Last year we hosted the African-Asian solidarity organization, AASROC [Asian-African

Subregional Organizations Conference], and the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement. Beyond the formal interactions that take place at this level, there could not have been a better expression of human solidarity than the enthusiastic response of South Africans to the devastation caused by the seaquake and ensuing tsunami in Asia and the northeastern shelf of Africa. We again express our solidarity with the affected nations and the families of South Africans who lost their loved ones and pledge to contribute what we can to ease their plight.

We shall also take part in the Asia-Africa Summit in Bandung, Indonesia, in April 2005, both to strengthen ties across the Indian Ocean and to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the famous Bandung Conference, which made a decisive contribution to the strengthening of African-Asian solidarity in the anticolonial struggle and led directly to the establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement.

In the next two months, we shall host the Ministerial Trilateral Commission meeting of India, Brazil, and South Africa to review these strategic relations focused on building south-[to-]south cooperation. In the same vein, we will continue to strengthen our bilateral relations with the People's Republic of China.

Some three months ago, the national liberation movement and the world at large lost one of its eminent leaders, President Yasir Arafat. We wish once more to pay tribute to this outstanding son of the Palestinian people and to wish the new Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, [and] the peoples of Palestine and Israel lasting peace in states that coexist in conditions of cooperation, human solidarity, and security for all.

I would also like to take advantage of this occasion to warmly congratulate and salute Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas for the bold steps they have taken during the last few days to communicate a firm message of hope to their respective peoples. I would like to assure them that in this regard, they have the unequivocal support of our government and the overwhelming majority of our people.

We also salute the invaluable contribution made by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and King Abdullah of Jordan to this happy development. Similarly, we are pleased to acknowledge and welcome the resolve publicly communicated by President George W. Bush and the new U.S. secretary of state, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, to do everything possible to implement the road map for the speedy resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict within the context of a two-state solution.

We also wish the people of Iraq success in their march towards lasting peace in the context of a fully restored sovereignty and a united, democratic Iraq, strengthened by the diversity of its population.

We will also continue to work with the government of Iran and the rest of the world community to find a lasting solution to the dispute that has arisen over issues related to the uses of nuclear technology.

We shall also continue to work with the secretary-general of the United Nations and other states for global consensus in the restructuring of this body so that it plays its due role as the ultimate and inclusive authority on global governance and development.

This will be given further impetus when, later this year, South Africa hosts the annual Progressive Governance Summit, bringing together distinguished world leaders who have the interests of the poor and the marginalized at heart.

We shall intensify our efforts to build a global movement of human solidarity. In this regard, we shall build on the groundswell of global appreciation and solidarity that characterized the celebration of our First Decade of Freedom.

It is also in this context that we shall intensify our efforts, working with the rest of Africa and the FIFA [Federation of International Football Association], to prepare for the 2010 soccer World Cup, confident that the trust placed in us by leaders of the 'beautiful game' shall be validated in every way.

I am pleased to welcome to our country the world's leading women golfers, who begin the Women's World Cup of Golf tournament in George today, and wish our team success in its

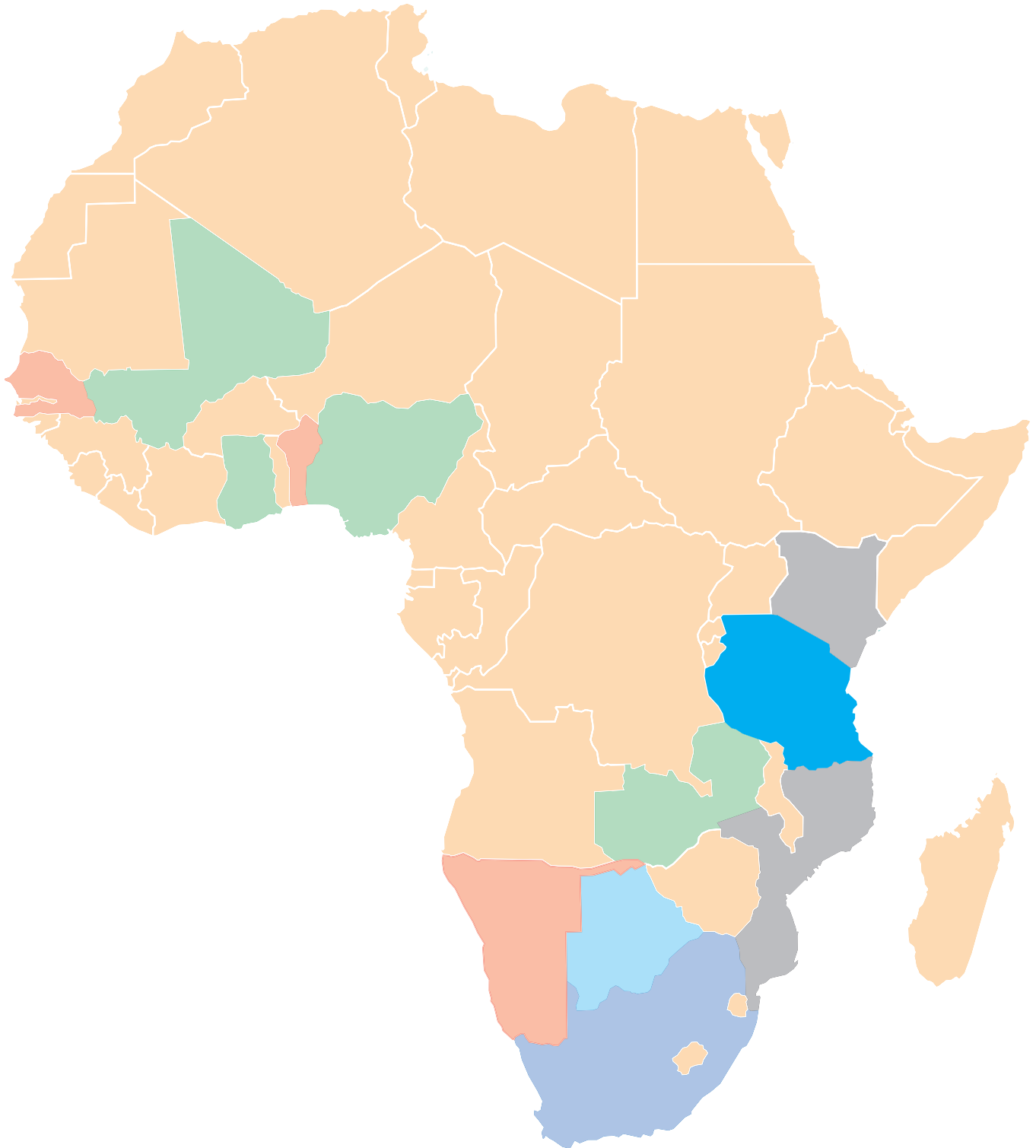
effort to emerge as the world champion. Our best wishes also go to the Proteas cricket team to vanquish their English opponents in the current limited-overs matches.

We are not being arrogant or complacent when we assert that our country, as a united nation, has never in its entire history enjoyed such a confluence of encouraging possibilities. On behalf of our government, we commend our programme to the country, confident that its implementation will help to place us on the high road towards ensuring that we become a winning nation and that we play our role towards the renewal of Africa and the creation of a better world.

Acting together, we do have the capacity to realize these objectives. And sparing neither effort nor strength, we can and shall build a South Africa that truly belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity!

Thank you.

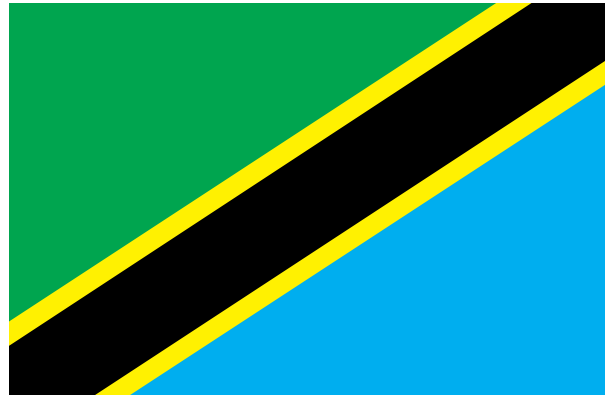
TANZANIA



TANZANIA



**State of the Nation Address by His
Excellency Benjamin William Mkapa,
President of the United Republic of
Tanzania, to Parliament
29 July 2005
Dodoma**



The time has come, in conformity with the requirements of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, to dissolve this Parliament so as to pave the way for the next general elections.

I have sworn to protect and defend this Constitution, which provides for two presidential five-year term limits. I will have reached my term limit in November 2005 and will pass on the baton of leadership to another pair of elected and deserving hands. Many of you will seek re-election. I am here to wish you well. I am sure your thoughts are already [with] your constituencies, but I nevertheless ask you to listen attentively to what I have to say.

Some of you, like me, are not seeking another mandate. I congratulate you for your long service to our people, and on their behalf, I thank you for what you did. I also thank you for showing a good example of voluntarily relinquishing power to give others the chance to serve and to bring into this august assembly new thoughts, new perspectives, and new ideas. In so doing, you are making an important contribution to the growth of the democratic tradition, to accountability, and to development in our country. I thank you.

I have much to be grateful for before dissolving this House. First, I am grateful to Almighty God, who in his eternal mercy has kept me going, giving me the physical and intellectual health, and the life and ability, to serve my fellow Tanzanians. We should also be grateful to him for the lives of service of our colleagues in this House who have passed on. Let us together continue to pray that Almighty God may rest their souls in eternal peace.

Second, I am grateful to you, Honourable Speaker. Your competence, ability, knowledge, experience, diligence, and skilfulness in running the affairs of this Parliament are well-known, within the walls of this House and outside, within Tanzania and abroad. You have brought honour and dignity to this House and to our country in the Commonwealth and elsewhere. You have ably led this multiparty House, fairly and equitably, earning the respect of both sides of the House, of the frontbenches and the backbenches. You counselled the Honourable Members of this House, especially the new ones, and ensured they understood well their responsibilities, and the rules and procedures of this multiparty House. I thank you for the role you played in entrenching and promoting our political reforms in this august assembly.

I am here to thank all members of Parliament, from all political parties, for their cooperation, which made possible the far-reaching political and economic reforms we [have] under[taken] over the last ten years. If they had not passed the required policies, legislation, and budgets, many of the successes of my administration would not have materialized. These successes are a product of a working partnership between the executive and the legislature. You, Honourable Members of Parliament, have every reason to associate yourselves with the successes of my administration. I thank you for passing the Fourteenth Amendment to our Constitution, which expanded our democratic tradition and increased the representation of women in Parliament. [You] also established the Human Rights and Good Governance Commission and strengthened human rights. We have made substantial progress in these areas, even as I concede that more remains to be done.

Through this Parliament, 599 laws were reviewed and others expunged, leaving us with 418 laws. Among those deleted were some of the 29 laws out of the 40 laws mentioned in the Chief Justice Francis Nyalali Commission Report that fall within the mandate of this Parliament. In addition, 210 bills were passed in this House, helping to strengthen good governance; to facilitate economic, political, and social reforms; as

well as to strengthen government capacity to deliver and enhance national unity.

PARLIAMENT

Under your able leadership, the debates in this House were generally peaceful and civilized. There have not been fistfights as witnessed in some countries. The majority of members of Parliament have proved by their conduct that this is indeed a place for civilized and fair debate in pursuit of national interests. Let me repeat what I always say. Political opposition is not enmity. The view that ultimately prevails in political debate can come from any political party. It [would] be arrogantly presumptuous and dangerous for CCM [Chama Cha Mapinduzi, the ruling party] to lay claim to monopoly of thought.

But, having said that, I urge opposition political parties to be more proactive and innovative, rather than dwelling inordinately and reactively or nitpicking on what the CCM government says or does. As I have said before, we cannot all think alike. God did not create us that way. So when we all think alike, it only means some of us are not thinking hard enough. And as Albert Einstein said, 'He who joyfully marches in rank and file has already earned my contempt. He has been given a large brain by mistake; since for him the spinal cord would suffice'.

We in the executive [branch] have allocated resources to create a conducive working environment for the Parliament. I will mention only a few of the things we did in these ten years:

1. We bought this Parliament building for Tshs. 9.9 billion and are building next door a new, better, and bigger building to house this august assembly. The suboffice in Dar es Salaam has been expanded, renovated, and refurbished; and a new office is under construction in Zanzibar.
2. We have started to provide research services for members of Parliament alongside a modern, well-stocked library, computers, and Internet services.

3. The Parliament has been institutionally strengthened by establishing standing sectoral committees that discuss bills, resolutions, and budget estimates exhaustively and in greater transparency. The introduction of public hearings on issues of national importance enables members of Parliament to listen to and internalize public perceptions and views ahead of parliamentary debates and decisions.
4. The capacity of Parliament to produce records of its proceedings has greatly been enhanced such that the Hansard [record of debates] can be available online in the Parliament's website within twenty-four hours.
5. Relations between our Parliament and other parliaments have been strengthened; training has been provided to members of Parliament and staff, as well as study tours and other visits abroad.
6. Remuneration and other fringe benefits for members of Parliament have been improved. Perhaps this is why so many people from the professions and academia are eyeing the constituencies you [re]present.

One of the most important decisions we made in the last ten years is to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions in government. The Fourteenth Constitutional Amendment now requires that at least 30 percent of all members of Parliament be women. In reality, as matters stand, that ratio can be attained only if there are at least fifteen women constituent members of Parliament. I therefore strongly urge women to come out and contest for constituent seats.

It is now the goal of the African Union to reach 50 percent [female] representation. To reach this goal, a new electoral formula has to be determined by the next Parliament.

In my first address to Parliament on 30 November 1995, I analysed the state of the nation and enumerated the goals of my administration in various sectors, including Politics, Economy, Social Services, Defence and Security, and For-

eign Affairs and International Cooperation. In this, my last address, I am obliged to briefly discuss our record in those areas.

POLITICS

Today, unlike in 1995, the multiparty political system is better understood and is strengthening. Our people are now used to political competition. The government has put in place a conducive environment for political parties to be formed, and those that have representation in this House get a government subsidy to offset their administrative expenses. The number of registered political parties has increased steadily from thirteen in 1995 to eighteen now. I wish such an increase could signify a strengthening of the democratic discourse. I am not sure if this is really happening, but obviously this increase in numbers reflects expanded political freedom, a positive thing in its own right.

A number of elections have taken place since 1995. Most were peaceful, free, and fair. Day after day, election after election, we have continued to use our experience and that of others to improve our system. We are moving forward; we are not moving backwards. We are always ready, able, and willing to correct our mistakes. We do not despair when we encounter an obstacle; we work together to find a solution. Among the steps we have taken in this regard are the following:

1. We agreed on the mwafaka [agreement] between CCM and CUF [Civic Union Front] in 2001, whose implementation is in its final stages. Efforts are going on between all registered political parties to evolve and agree on a national consensus—a national mwafaka—on our politics, and subsequently on our national economic and social vision.
2. Efforts are ongoing among all registered political parties to evolve and agree on an electoral code of conduct.
3. We have prepared a national permanent voter register.
4. We have increased transparency in the entire electoral process, including in the

counting of votes. We now use transparent ballot boxes, and votes are counted at each voting location in the presence of representatives of political parties.

5. We have significantly reduced our dependence on external financing for our elections as an illustration of our commitment to freedom and ownership of this critical national issue.
6. The mass media have an important role to play in promoting freedom of opinion, including political opinion. In the last ten years, the number of daily newspapers has increased from 22 to 42; weekly newspapers from 67 to 171; and radio stations from 2 to 63. Almost all of this increase relates to private owners and operators. And even the public media is trying to give equal access to all political parties. All I ask as we approach [the] general elections is that media people should abide by professional ethics and treat all people and parties fairly.

The third-phase government has expanded people's freedom. And that is as it should be. It is not enough to be a free country; the citizens must also be free within the limits of the Constitution and our laws. Some human-rights activists look upon the United States of America as a beacon of freedom and human rights. The fourth president of the United States, James Madison, who played an important role in the drafting of the United States Constitution, had this to say of freedom: 'Liberty may be endangered by the abuses of liberty as well as by the abuses of power'. So let us not ignore the potential dangers posed by those who are inclined to abuse their liberty.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

The third-phase government has shown by deeds its political will to promote good governance. Laws have been enacted, regulations have been promulgated, and transparency has been enhanced in relation to government functions for this purpose. As I have said, we established the Commission for Human Rights and Good

Governance. We established the Commission for Ethics in Public Service. And we are working on improving government communication. That is why I decided to address the nation on radio and television at the end of each month to tell the people what the government is doing and why.

From the beginning of the third-phase government I said that my policy will be one of openness and truth. I told my fellow CCM leaders that I would rather be despised for being truthful and honest than to be loved for lying to my people. The people understood me; they trusted me and have always cooperated with me. I thank them.

My monthly addresses are one of my efforts to ensure the people know what the government is doing in their name and why. It is not right for people to be led blindly. A confident government, an accountable government, is open to the people. It has no reason to hide. A leader who is convinced about the correctness of a decision has no reason not to be open about it.

I have established, in my office, a Directorate of Communication. Almost every ministry now has a senior official acting as a communication officer with the duty to inform the public, including through the media, what the ministry is doing. When I launched this initiative on 18 March 2003 in Bagamoyo, I elaborated at length [on] the duty of government to communicate. Such a duty, in a democratic society, derives from the people's right to be informed, and to be heard, on issues of concern to them. Such a duty on the part of government is not voluntary; it is mandatory.

One advantage of an open government is that it enhances accountability and discipline in government operations. We have begun to discharge this duty, but much remains to be done. There are still people who think everything in government is top secret—even their faults. That is very wrong, but it will take time to change the attitude of each and every leader. But we must move forward, never backwards. The government of Tanzania must be a people's government, deriving legitimacy from the people, accountable to the people, and not afraid to be open to them.

More broadly, we need to focus our politics on priority issues and on solutions to the people's concerns and problems. We still entertain inordinately the politics of lamentation. We are obsessed with finding someone to blame for everything and are not doing enough to research, argue, and produce alternative strategies. Our politics are vociferous rather than being problem-solving and results-oriented.

I swore to defend and protect the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, which provides for the separation of powers [among] the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary. In these past ten years I not only respect[ed] this separation of powers, I also tried to enrich and strengthen it. And I am grateful to you and to the chief justice for your cooperation.

In the remaining period of my administration, I intend to conclude, or at least to begin the process of concluding, pending decisions on improving governance that I should not burden our next president with. One of these relates to the requests from citizens to subdivide some of our administrative districts. The requests are many. The government cannot afford to accept all of them at once.

In view of genuine needs to improve governance, to improve security, and [to] promote good neighbourly relations, I have decided to subdivide the following districts:

- Muheza District will be divided into two districts: Muheza and Mkinga.
- Monduli District will be divided into two districts: Monduli and Longido.
- Bukoba Rural District will be divided into two districts: Bukoba Rural and Misenyi.
- Hai District will be divided into two districts: Hai and Siha.
- Masasi District will be divided into two districts: Masasi and Nanyumbu.
- Biharamulo District will be divided into two districts: Biharamulo and Chato.
- Dodoma Rural District will be divided into two districts: Bahi and Chamwino.

I now instruct that the process to effect these changes be set in motion immediately, always

bearing in mind that the actual implementation will have to be preceded by citizens' efforts to contribute to the construction of the needed infrastructure and the district administrative building.

CORRUPTION

One of my stated priorities upon coming to office was the war on corruption. There were other priorities, but some people want my administration to be assessed solely on this one criterion—corruption—believing, mistakenly, that I did not fulfil my promise. I did fulfil my promise. It is true there is still corruption in Tanzania, as there is corruption in practically all countries, at different levels. But in the last ten years, we have worked hard to fight corruption.

At the very beginning I constituted a team, headed by [the] Honourable Judge Joseph S. Warioba, to study and make recommendations on how to deal with this vice. Following those recommendations, we took many policy, legal, and administrative decisions intended to close loopholes for corrupt behaviour. For instance, the following laws were enacted:

1. Public Service Act, No. 8, of 2002;
2. Public Leadership Code of Ethics Act, No. 5, of 2001;
3. Public Procurement Act, No. 3, of 2001;
4. Public Finances Act, No. 6, of 2001;
5. Land Act, No. 4, of 1999; and
6. Village Land Act, No. 5, of 1999.

The National Anti-Corruption Strategy was formally launched in 2001 to improve government effectiveness and the working environment in public institutions, as well as to provide public education and sensitization on corruption. We have strengthened the Prevention of Corruption Bureau (PCB), including by increasing its budget six hundred times, from Tshs. 15 million in 1996–1997 to Tshs. 9 billion in 2004–2005. We have increased PCB's staff level from 185 to 700 over the same period, some of whom are trained prosecutors and investigators. Structurally, the PCB has expanded its office network to cover all regions and ninety-three districts in Tanzania

Mainland. In short, we have increased PCB's budget, expanded its network, and enhanced its operational capacity, including [its] investigative and prosecution functions. As a result, the government has managed to take several measures against public officials suspected of corruption.

Between January 2002 and June 2004, for example, 456 public officials were given written warnings, 362 were suspended, 403 were dismissed or retired in the public interest, and 138 were handed over to other law enforcement organs. Between 1995 and 2004, a total of 11,434 suspicions were reported to PCB, out of which 9,891 cases were investigated. Of these, 975 cases were handed over to the relevant institutions and offices for action. A total of 367 corruption cases were taken to court, of which 174 have been concluded. As the war on corruption does not depend on PCB alone, at least 16 NGOs [non-governmental organizations] have been involved in the war on corruption.

The government also increased public education on corruption through radio, public rallies, seminars, pamphlets, newspapers, television, calendars, and performing arts. A total of 857 radio programmes have been broadcast, 65,200 calendars have been distributed, and 205,500 copies of the corruption journal have been printed and distributed. In addition, 30,500 pamphlets, 5,000 placards, and 474 announcements were published in newspapers or broadcast on television. A total of 1,310 public educational lectures were delivered in various parts of the country.

There are Tanzanians who do not want to concede what we have done in the war on corruption. But the outside world recognizes what we have done. Research commissioned by the World Bank Institute to gauge improvements in governance in sub-Saharan Africa between 1996 and 2004 has shown that it was only Tanzania that made significant improvements in all the three governance indicators: Voice and Accountability, Government Effectiveness, and Control of Corruption. Even Transparency International has recognized the strides we have made. Certainly, those in Tanzania who do not want to concede what has been done must have other reasons for not doing so. I repeat: I am not

saying there is now no corruption in Tanzania. All I am doing is defend[ing] the record of my administration, and the political commitment it has shown, in fighting corruption.

I have tried hard during my term of office to engender, by my conduct, a better public perception of politicians. We have to be more truthful and people of integrity.

The story is told of an older couple with a son who was still living with his parents. The parents were a little worried, as the son was still unable to decide about his future career. They decided to do a small test. They took a ten-thousand-shilling note, a Bible, and a bottle of whisky, and put them on the front-hall table, and hid, pretending they were not home.

The father's plan was: 'If our son takes the money, he will be a businessman, if he takes the Bible, he will be a priest, but if he takes the bottle of whisky, I'm afraid our son will be a drunkard'. So the parents waited nervously, hiding in the nearby closet.

Peeping through the keyhole, they saw their son arrive. The son saw the ten-thousand-shilling note they had left. He took it, looked at it against the light to be sure it was genuine, and slid it in[to] his pocket. After that, he took the Bible, flicked through it, and took it. Then he grabbed the bottle, opened it, and took a whiff to get assured of the quality. Then he left for his room, carrying all three items.

The father slapped his forehead and said: 'Darn. Our son is going to be a politician'!

This is the kind of reputation I would not want Tanzanian politicians to be defamed with.

ECONOMY

One of the most basic issues in a market economy is macroeconomic fundamentals and stability, as well as the creation of a conducive environment for economic growth and capacity to compete regionally and globally. During this parliamentary session, ministers have explained what we have done in relation to these issues over the last ten years. I will not repeat everything they said. I will mention only a few points.

All over the world, inflation is an indicator of the economic health of a country. We have managed to bring down inflation from 27.1 percent in 1995 to 4.3 percent last year. Parallel to this, real GDP [gross domestic product] growth increased from 3.6 percent in 1995 to 6.7 percent in 2004. Foreign reserves have increased substantially. Government revenues have risen from a monthly average of Tshs. 37.4 billion in fiscal year 1995–1996 to a monthly average of over Tshs. 140 billion in fiscal year 2004–2005. We used these extra resources to improve the working environment in government, to improve the remuneration of public servants, and to augment investments in priority sectors for poverty reduction, including education, health, water, rural roads, and HIV/AIDS, as well as meeting the costs of the traditional functions of government regarding defence and security.

Among the measures taken to improve tax revenues are:

1. improving tax administration, including rationalization and removing nuisance taxes with low yields, such as the former ‘Development Levy’;
2. [improving] tax collection measures, including the installation of flow meters for oil products at Dar es Salaam port, and container scanners;
3. introducing the Value Added Tax (VAT) in 1998;
4. repealing the 1973 Income Tax, and enacting the new Income Tax, 2004;
5. establishing the Revenue Board and Tax Appeals Tribunal;
6. reforming the law and procedures governing Customs Administration;
7. plugging loopholes for tax evasion and repealing unnecessary tax exemptions; and
8. reviewing tax rates annually, or introducing new ones, to attract investments while encouraging voluntary compliance.

Over the last ten years, the government introduced far-reaching reforms in budgetary and accounting procedures, including introducing the computer-based Integrated Financial

Management System (IFMS) that has now connected all ministries, departments, and regions. The system has produced such good results in terms of budget preparation and financial control that other countries from near and far come to learn from our experience. The system has been introduced in thirty-two local government councils and will reach another thirty councils in this new fiscal year.

Most of what I have said does not directly reduce poverty, but these are the fundamentals that have to be in place for all other growth and poverty reduction initiatives to succeed. The measures I have described have helped, and continue to help, in creating a conducive environment for investment, production, and service provision, and have enabled ordinary citizens to self-develop.

We have worked hard to create a good investment climate for foreign and local investors. All over the world, countries compete to attract foreign direct investment [FDI] and to that end provide various incentives. That is the reality of our globalizing world, and that is the best strategy to bring into the country the needed capital, technology, and jobs, and [to] build the capacity to compete globally.

There is no discrimination between local and foreign investors in terms of incentives. I continue to encourage Tanzanians to use the opportunities offered by these investment incentives. I should like Tanzanians to benefit more from the measures we are taking to improve the investment climate. But time is not on our side. If we do not take advantage of these opportunities, others will. We will not close the door to foreigners. As the Oromo proverb from Ethiopia says, ‘When the first born becomes foolish, the last born inherits the cattle’. We must not become foolish.

Between 1995 and 2004, the Tanzania Investment Centre approved 2,527 projects [that] provided almost 500,000 job opportunities. Of these projects, 44 percent were wholly locally owned, 32 percent were joint ventures between local and foreign investors, and only 24 percent were wholly owned by foreign investors. These investments have helped to improve the

investment/GDP ratio from 16.5 percent in 1996 to 21 percent last year.

The Tanzania Investment Centre recently won an award for being the best investment promotion centre among forty-one other African centres.

In recognizing the importance of the private sector, the government established the Tanzania National Business Council in 2001 to act as a forum for dialogue between the government and the private sector. So far, five meetings with foreign investors and three meetings with local investors have taken place under my personal chairmanship.

The following laws were amended partly on account of this interaction and dialogue:

1. tax reforms, whereby offices to handle tax issues have been established in sixty-six districts that did not have them before;
2. amendments to the Land Act;
3. ongoing reform of business licensing procedures;
4. improvement of the business environment to increase the role of the private sector in the economy;
5. enactment of new comprehensive labour legislation; and
6. establishment of Business Environment Strengthening Programme in Tanzania (BEST).

The government is continuing to take further measures to enhance private sector-led growth, including through the implementation of the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) policy, focusing on:

1. strengthening the business environment for SMEs;
2. building the human-resource capacity and that of enterprises to compete; and
3. improving access to credit for SMEs.

The third-phase government has taken several measures to empower citizens to have a stake in the national economy. These include:

1. [We are] improving the Bank of Tanzania Act of 1995 and the Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1991 so that the banking sector can play a greater role in the economic empowerment of our people. As a result of these efforts, bank lending to the private sector has increased by over 30 percent in the last three years.
2. The government has promulgated the National Microfinance Policy of 2001. The regulations and procedures for its operation have been published.
3. The Land Act of 1999 and its amendments of 2004 will simplify the use of land as collateral for loans.
4. The government in cooperation with the Central Bank has strengthened the Export Credit Guarantee Scheme, which now has Tshs. 19.8 billion. The scheme has helped cooperative unions to buy farmers' crops.
5. The government has established an SME Guarantee Scheme, with Tshs. 2.0 billion so far.
6. In 2003 the government established the Unit Trust of Tanzania, which since May 2005 has been offering citizens, on behalf of the government, a 30 percent discount on each unit purchased.
7. We have established the Property and Business Formalization Programme for Tanzania. Too many people, including members of Parliament, have businesses or other assets outside the legal sector, which makes it difficult to use them to leverage their participation in the credit market. Our people are poor while potentially they are not. The ongoing diagnosis phase in the programme has determined that 97 percent of all businesses in Tanzania (871,000 units) are extralegal and 86 percent of all urban property (1,435,000 units) are also extralegal, with a replacement value of US\$11.6 billion—fifty-seven times the concessional and nonconcessional net financial inflows from multilateral institutions in 2002. When ready, this programme will enable our people to use such assets as collateral

for loans from commercial banks and [will] contribute to economic growth.

8. The government also established the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF). Phase one of the project, covering forty districts on Tanzania Mainland and all districts in Zanzibar, is complete. In every region you visit in this country, you will see TASAF projects. I launched phase two of the project on 23 May 2005 in Mwanza region, covering all districts in the country and benefiting our people with technical support, incomes, and employment opportunities in community projects for the poorest ones.

Among the sectors that have attracted the most local and foreign investments are mining and tourism. In the last ten years, over US\$1.4 billion has been invested in the mining sector, and six large-scale gold mines have come on stream. Today Tanzania is the third-largest gold producer in Africa after South Africa and Ghana. In 1995 we produced only three tons of gold. Now we produce almost fifty tons a year, and we are tightening verification and regulatory measures. Gold exports have risen from US\$2 million only in 1997 to US\$593.2 million last year, an increase of almost three hundred times.

The CCM election manifesto enjoined us in government to help small-scale miners. In the last ten years, over ten thousand such miners were trained in prospecting and mining, environmental conservation, and access to credit. In 2004 a centre to train small-scale miners in sorting gold was established at Matundasi in Chunya. Measures are under way to establish a lapidary facility in Arusha. The Mining Training Centre in Dodoma is being expanded and its curriculum improved to benefit small-scale miners. Miners with agreements with suppliers of equipment for small-scale mining are exempted from paying VAT and customs duty on the import of such equipment. And the government in collaboration with the Tanzania Mineral Dealers Association (TAMIDA) conducts public auction sales for minerals to help small-scale miners get a better price.

Between 1999 and 2000 an area of 2,892 square kilometres was set aside for small-scale miners who have been issued with licences in Mererani Block B and D, in Simanjiro District; Mvomero in Mvomero District; Kilindi in Handeni District; and Maganzo in Kishapu District. This year another 204-square-kilometre area in Lusahunga, Mabuki, and Nyang'wale has been set aside for the same purpose.

It is, therefore, not true that the government cares only for large-scale miners. We care for small-scale miners as well. And it is not true that the government does not care about the national interest in dealing with large-scale miners. We have laws and regulations governing things like environmental conservation, and mining companies compete each year for a Presidential Environmental Preservation in Mining Award. The incentives we offer to mining investors are similar to what prevails in most countries that compete with us, taking into account the mining companies' legitimate needs to recover their investments, repay loans, and earn a decent return on investment for their shareholders while giving the government a reasonable share of the proceeds. Government revenues from mining have increased from Tshs. 432 million in 1995 to Tshs. 23 billion last year. In the last five years, 2000–2004, large-scale mining companies have built [a] social-service delivery infrastructure worth Tshs. 1.5 billion.

In spite of health scares and the threat of terrorist attacks, tourism has continued to grow by an average of 10 percent annually over the last ten years. The number of tourists has almost doubled, from 295,000 in 1995 to 582,000 in 2004, and revenues have almost trebled over the same period, from US\$258.1 million to US\$746.0 million. Employment in the sector has likewise increased from 96,000 to 160,750 over the same period.

As the market economy expands, so does the need increase for an effective regulatory system to ensure a level playing field for competitors and the protection of consumers. We have, therefore, established several regulatory bodies, such as:

1. the Surface and Marine Transport Regulatory Authority (SUMATRA), which is already operational;
2. the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA);
3. the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA);
4. the Energy and Water Utility Regulatory Authority (EWURA); and
5. the Fair Trade Commission and Tribunal, which are in the final stages and will soon be operational.

When privatization began in 1993, Tanzania had about 400 public enterprises and parastatals, which had accumulated losses worth US\$452 million, of which US\$100 million was trading losses and US\$352 million was outstanding loans guaranteed by the government. Until December 2004, 312 out of 395, equivalent to 79 percent of the total, had been privatized and 499 noncore assets sold.

An evaluation of the privatization process by consultants (M/s DCDM [De Chazal DuMée]) showed that the following benefits have accrued to the nation from privatization:

1. Privatization has contributed to faster economic growth.
2. Privatization has contributed to increased government revenues as privatized companies have begun to pay taxes.
3. Resources previously used to subsidize ailing parastatals are now being directed to more deserving services [for] the people.
4. Privatization has helped to bring into the country new capital and technology. About US\$725.9 billion has been invested in privatized firms over the last ten years.
5. Privatization has increased job opportunities, directly and indirectly.
6. Privatization has helped to develop linkages with the informal sector, creating more space for trading.
7. Privatization has contributed to increased exports.
8. Most workers in privatized firms have better remuneration than was the case before.
9. Privatization has helped to improve the quality and competitiveness of locally produced goods.
10. Privatization has created an opening for local investors to own a stake in the national economy.

We are now entering the phase of privatizing utility firms. Some of them are at different levels of privatization, such as the Tanzania Harbour Authority, the Tanzania Railways Corporation, the Tanzania Electric Supply Company, the National Insurance Corporation, and the remaining government shares in the Tanzania Telecommunications Company. The work is expected to end in 2007. But let me emphasize: We do not privatize the infrastructure; we concession out the provision of services.

In addition, our experience with privatizing the operations of large infrastructural and utility companies has not been smooth. We need to look afresh at the privatization strategy for such enterprises. I have, therefore, appointed a technical team to look again at our experience and produce an alternative [that] will ensure the improved services we want out of privatization are realized. Privatization without improved services is unacceptable.

Most of what we have done so far are preparations for an economic take-off, with growth rates of 8 to 10 percent per annum. This is possible, but Tanzanians must wake up and use well the conducive policy and legal environment being developed, as well as the abundant natural resources that God gave us. Endless complaints and squabbling will not get us far and will instead leave the field wide open for foreigners and a few smart Tanzanians, evoking unnecessary and destructive fits of jealousy.

We have to work hard, use well the advantages presented by our geographical location, and increase value-addition in our exports, as well as demand more strongly a fairer access to the markets within the region and abroad.

The third-phase government has prepared the Tanzania Mini-Tiger Plan 2020, which is part of the Tanzania Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy. The plan involves constructing special

economic zones (SEZ) to produce goods and services both for exports and the local market. It will also answer the cry for skilled jobs in the country. I look forward to at least one SEZ being ready before I leave office.

Everywhere I go in this world I meet leaders of government and business who are full of praise for what we in Tanzania have done and [for] the fact that our economy is veritably ready for take-off. The time has come for Tanzanians to also recognize the successes we have attained and [to] remember the wisdom of our elders, that when the water is about to boil, that is not the time to reduce the heat. Let us be strong, courageous, and daring. Let us be self-confident like true inheritors of the legacy of the Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere. And as William Shakespeare said, 'Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt'. My fellow citizens, let us not lose the good, let us not be afraid to dare, and the time to do so is now. As the late Mzee Jongo was wont to say, 'The sun is out; if you do not dry your cassava now, you will pound it when it is still raw'.

SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE WAR ON POVERTY

The third-phase government put a new emphasis on the war on poverty. We promulgated policies and national strategies to ensure that the war on poverty becomes the priority in all our national endeavours. And we did all this with the full and effective participation of stakeholders and in conditions of national ownership.

After the 2000 Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) was promulgated, the government and other stakeholders prepared the Poverty Monitoring Master Plan of 2001. The idea was to measure successes in the implementation of the PRS, to identify shortcomings, and to take remedial action. Subsequent evaluation showed that the proportion of people living in poverty had declined from 38.6 percent in 1991–1992 to 35.7 percent in 2000–2001, and those living in abject poverty from 21.6 percent to 18.7 percent over the same period.

The government budget is an important tool in government efforts to fight poverty. The successes we attained in economic growth, increased government revenues, and debt relief were directed to boost the share of resources going to priority sectors in poverty reduction. For instance, the share of government recurrent budget going to the social sector has increased from 4.6 percent of GDP in 1999–2000 to 8.3 percent in 2004–2005, and the share of the development budget increased from 0.5 percent of GDP to 3.5 percent over the same period.

The availability of potable water in both rural and urban areas is an important indicator in the war on poverty and [of] economic growth. Now 53.47 percent of rural people have access to clean water near their homes, compared to 42 percent in 1995. In urban areas, 74 percent of the people had access to water in 2004, compared to only 60 percent in 1995.

The third-phase government introduced health-sector reforms to improve the quality of services offered, especially for women and children. Efforts were made to sensitize people on these reforms, and many have now established representative health boards and service delivery committees. By May 2005, 113 local government councils had been sensitized, and 62 of them had established and [put into] operation their health boards.

The government has also encouraged citizens to join contributory health insurance schemes, such as the Community Health Fund, the National Health Insurance Fund, and the Community Health Fund for people in the informal sector in urban areas.

The government has also embarked on a large-scale programme to rehabilitate and re-equip health delivery facilities. In cooperation with various donors, such as the African Development Bank, OPEC [Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries], BADEA [Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa], Abbott Laboratories, JICA [Japan International Cooperation Agency], and CDC [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention], rehabilitation and re-equipping work is going on at the Muhimbili National Hospital, and the expansion

of maternity wards in all the three Dar es Salaam municipalities, as well as delivery wards in thirty-two districts.

This work has also begun in the referral hospitals of Bugando, Mbeya, KCMC [Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre], Kibong'oto, Mirembe, Isanga, Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute, and Ocean Road Hospital. In subsequent phases, we will reach all regional and district hospitals.

The government has also strengthened its capacity to check the quality of food and drugs, cosmetics, and medical equipment. To that end, a modern laboratory has been constructed, and in 2003 a new law to govern this sector was enacted.

The government has continued to ensure [that] an adequate supply of drugs and medical equipment goes [to] hospitals, health centres, and all government dispensaries all over the country. The budget for this has increased from an average of Tshs. 10 billion a year in 2000 to about Tshs. 30 billion last year [2004]. The shortages of drugs from the 1990s are now history.

The government has continued to bring health services close to the people. Between 1995 and 2004 the number of hospitals increased from 194 to 220, health centres from 343 to 433, and dispensaries from 3,832 to 4,622.

I know the minister for health has already informed this august assembly of successes in the health sector over the past ten years. I should like to repeat a few of the successes I am especially pleased about:

1. There has been a significant decline in preventable diseases.
2. The infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) has declined from 99.1 in 1999 to 68 in 2004.
3. The under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) has declined from 146.6 in 1999 to 112 in 2004.
4. The number of under-five-year-olds receiving vitamin A supplements has increased from 1.5 million in 1995 to 5.7 million in 2004.
5. We have begun to provide free ARVs [anti-retrovirals] to AIDS patients, and we expect to have 44,000 people enrolled in the programme by the end of the year.

I could go on and on. But now I should mention a few of the successes in education in the last ten years that I am also particularly proud of:

1. We managed to abolish school fees in government primary schools and reduce by half the fees in government secondary schools.
2. The number of children in primary schools has increased by 82 percent and those in secondary schools by 120 percent.
3. The number of primary schools has increased by 26 percent and secondary schools by 117 percent.
4. The pass rate in primary schools has increased from 14.6 percent to 49 percent, in ordinary secondary schools from 24.6 percent to 38.8 percent, and in advanced secondary schools from 70.7 percent to 80.7 percent.

With regard to tertiary education, the following striking successes have been recorded between 1995 and 2005:

1. The number of students in public universities has increased from 7,785 to 32,681, an increase of 24,896 students, or 319.8 percent.
2. The number of female students has increased in the same period from 1,135 to 10,039, an increase of 8,904 students, or 784.5 percent.

In order to expand the enrolment of students in higher-learning institutions, the government established the Student Loans and Recovery Board, which was launched in March this year. The board will serve students from both public and private universities.

The government has also taken deliberate measures to reduce income inequalities, through among other things:

1. abolishing school fees in primary schools and reducing by half school fees in secondary schools, from Tshs. 40,000/= [approximately] to Tshs. 20,000/= a year;
2. abolishing nuisance taxes, including the 'Development Levy';

3. subsidizing agricultural inputs and fertilizer;
4. abolishing import taxes for agricultural machinery such as tractors;
5. providing free medical treatment to pregnant women, under-five-year-old children, old people, and those suffering from diseases such as TB [tuberculosis], HIV/AIDS, and leprosy;
6. raising the government minimum wage from Tshs. 17,500/= per month in 1995 to Tshs. 60,000/= per month in 2004;
7. establishing an Agricultural Input Fund and subsidizing the transportation of fertilizer;
8. waiving VAT on unprocessed agricultural and livestock products, including unprocessed meat, animal products, fish, and other agricultural products;
9. waiving stamp duty on agricultural, livestock, and fisheries products;
10. waiving customs duty for agricultural implements, fertilizer, and pesticides; and
11. increasing budgetary allocations for social and economic infrastructure that benefit all people.

Unity is strength. This aphorism is even more pertinent for the poor. And cooperative societies that are free and strong are the strength of ordinary citizens, especially farmers and small-scale business people. But the cooperative movement was almost dying in this country a few years ago. In March 2000, I convened a workshop of all stakeholders to discuss what could be done to revive cooperatives. Subsequently, I constituted a committee under Honourable Clement George Kahama, currently minister for cooperatives and marketing, to chair it.

I thank Honourable Kahama and his committee for very good work [that] provided the basis for government efforts in reviving cooperatives. And we have attained the following successes:

1. We promulgated a new Cooperative Development Policy in 2002.
2. We enacted a new Cooperative Act in 2003.
3. We have strengthened government agencies dealing with cooperatives such as

COASCO [Cooperative Audit and Supervision Corporation], the Cooperative Development Directorate, and the Cooperative College [of] Moshi, which has now been elevated into a Cooperative and Business Studies Constituent College of the Sokoine University of Agriculture.

4. We have improved the capacity of cooperatives to conduct business once again and compete in a market economy.
5. We have expanded cooperative education to empower members to own and manage the cooperatives.
6. We have strengthened the leadership of cooperatives and are now subjecting them to the cooperative leaders' ethics according to the new law on cooperatives.
7. We have encouraged and sensitized the people to form primary cooperative societies. Much success has been attained in savings and credit societies whereby the number of such societies has increased from 800 in 2000 to 1,719 in 2004, with 251,531 members of [whom] 84,571 are women, equivalent to 34 percent.

These successes have rekindled the cooperative spirit and brought new hopes. The motto for this year's International Cooperative Alliance says, 'Microfinance Is Our Business: Cooperating Out of Poverty'. This is true. Savings and credit societies have an important role to play in poverty reduction and have enabled members to be recognized collectively by financial institutions and play a greater role in mobilizing savings and investing in production and business.

DEFENCE AND SECURITY

I am pleased that our defence policy—of a small professional army, with the highest level of discipline, properly trained and equipped, and able to defend our borders at all times, under all circumstances—has stood the test of time.

Between 1995 and 2005, the Ministry of Defence and National Service implemented a master plan to revamp and strengthen the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) and

the National Service, as required by the CCM election manifesto of 1995 and again of 2000.

1. The TPDF has been strengthened to ensure the security of our borders.
2. Military exercises have been held.
3. Basic services to our troops have been strengthened.
4. Housing for the troops has been improved.
5. Land set aside for the army has been surveyed.
6. The capacity for the army to assist in civilian rescue missions and national emergencies has been, and is still being, strengthened.
7. Militia training has been strengthened.
8. Capacity for military research and technology development has continued to be strengthened.
9. Military cooperation with other countries, especially regional cooperation, has continued.
10. Our troops have taken part in international peacekeeping missions.
11. Financial management and control has been strengthened.

We have tried in the last ten years to improve the operational environment of our troops. We need to do more, but our commanders and soldiers have no doubt at all about the political will, the determination, and the plans and preparations that are afoot to meet this goal.

I thank them for their patience and understanding. And I thank them for their immense contribution during national disasters as well as in civilian nation-building activities such as bridges, ferries, and housing construction.

The Tanzania Police Force has likewise been strengthened through new and modern equipment, including communication equipment, forensic laboratories, and vehicles.

Many police officers have been trained and retrained to enhance their capacity in various disciplines, and 7,585 new houses for police officers have been built in various parts of the country and others have been rehabilitated.

In addressing the problem of congestion in prisons, new prisons have been built in Igunga, Mbarali, and Mbinga districts.

Moreover, we have rehabilitated nine maximum-security prisons and repaired most of the other ones. The law on parole of 1994, as amended in 2002, has enabled 1,116 inmates to be released on parole. The Community Service Act of 2002 also helps to reduce prison congestion by letting inmates with minor offences and prison sentences not exceeding three months to serve their sentences outside doing community service.

The Prisons Service has also been given new vehicles, modern communication equipment, and computers.

A total of 5,719 officers and men in the Prisons Service have been trained in various fields, and an additional 4,036 officers recruited and 8,532 promoted. A total of 176 houses were built and others rehabilitated.

I should like to use this opportunity to thank and congratulate all the heads of the TPDF—the Police Service, Intelligence and Security Service, and the Prisons Service, as well as their commanders, officers, men, and women—for the good work, high level of discipline and commitment, and bravery. Some died or were injured in the course of duty. We cannot forget them. Others fought bravely to prevent or respond to national disasters, such as accidents [and] fire outbreaks, and [to] apprehend criminals. I thank and congratulate all of them.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In the last ten years we have maintained our policy of good neighbourliness. As a result, all our borders have been secure all these years. In addition, we have played an important role in addressing conflicts in the region without ourselves generating refugees. It is true some of our citizens fled to Shimoni, Mombasa, in 2001, but this was an aberration.

We are not blowing our own trumpet, but it is recognized internationally that Tanzania plays an

important role on issues of peace, security, and development in the Great Lakes region and beyond in Africa. We hosted the first international Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy, and Development in the Great Lakes region last year, an initiative we believe marks the beginning of durable peace, security, and development in this region. We have managed to repatriate many refugees from Rwanda and Burundi, and to help in the evolution of political solutions to the conflicts in some countries in the region.

We have also played an important role in regional cooperation, through the East African Community, the Southern Africa Development Community, and the African Union.

We have revived and strengthened our relations with bilateral and multilateral development partners, enabling us to receive more aid and concessional loans, as well as receive substantial debt relief. Moreover, Tanzania has developed a record of development partner relations that reflects a case of best practice in aid delivery and effectiveness, national ownership, donor relations, and aid harmonization and coordination.

There is the story of a certain fellow who, having married into a wealthy family, saw no reason to work. 'I'm ashamed of the way we live,' his young wife said to him. 'My father pays our rent. My mother buys all of our food. My sister buys our clothes. My aunt bought us a car. I'm just so ashamed.' The husband rolled over on the couch. 'You should be ashamed,' he agreed. 'Those two worthless brothers of yours never give us a cent.'

We do not want our country to be as dependent on others as this lazy fellow. The increased flow of aid and loans has not increased our dependency on others. In fact, we have slightly reduced the dependence of our budget on external aid. That our dependence hovers slightly above 40 percent is not an indicator of our propensity to dependence but an indicator of our level of indigence, which we are addressing through promotion of economic growth. We are not complacent.

The enhanced cooperation with our development partners has not dampened our resolve to work for a fairer globalization and better treat-

ment in global economic and trading relations. My participation in the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, and again in the Commission for Africa, is an ample illustration of that determination on our side.

One of the recommendations of the Commission for Africa is the robust support for the proposed investment climate facility to unleash Africa's strong entrepreneurial spirit. Perhaps I should use this occasion to announce that there has been considerable solicitation [for] me to co-chair this facility upon retirement in November.

CONCLUSION

This has been a long speech, just as leading a poor country for ten years is a long journey. Many people have worked and walked with me [on] that long journey. I want to thank them.

I worked very well with the late Dr. Omar Ali Juma as my vice president. I should like us to continue praying that Almighty God may keep his soul in eternal peace.

I thank my vice president, Honourable Dr. Mohamed Ali Shein. His wisdom, his thoughtfulness, his love for people, his commitment to poverty reduction, his diligence, and his great humane spirit have been important resources in my leadership.

I thank the former and current presidents of Zanzibar, Honourable Dr. Salmin Amour and Honourable Amani Abeid Karume, for their full cooperation at all times in the leadership of our party and country.

I tried to constitute a government of people with integrity and initiative, and called them 'paratroopers'. Almost all of them have lived up to my expectations of them. The successes of my administration that I have outlined today were made possible by their efforts. I thank the prime minister, Honourable Frederick T. Sumaye, MP, who helped me a lot in the ten years of my leadership of our country. I have taken note of his decision not to seek re-election as a member of Parliament. But he is still young and strong and able to serve his party and our people in other ways.

I thank my cabinet. I thank all ministers and deputy ministers, as well as permanent secretaries and all public-sector officials. I wish I could list all the successes they all helped to produce in the last ten years. But the time is not enough for that, and there are many good things I have not mentioned today. But I have received reports from every ministry, department, and sector. And it is all impressive. I want everyone to know I am truly grateful for what we did together.

I wish all the best for those ministers and deputy ministers who will seek re-election as members of Parliament. Their knowledge and experience and the networks they have developed in government and outside—nationally, regionally, and internationally—are a valuable resource that should not be entirely lost.

I thank all regional and district commissioners. They have done much, sometimes under difficult circumstances. I thank them.

In a special way, I want to thank our development partners, both bilateral and multilateral, for their understanding, cooperation, and commitment to the cause of development in Tanzania. When I came to power in 1995, relations with most of them were at low ebb. But, almost from the beginning, they listened to me, they trusted me, [and] they worked with me, and the successes attributed to the third-phase government were made possible by their unwavering support. The list is long, and I have already spoken for much too long. So I ask for their understanding when I do not mention them by name. What I ask for is that each one of our bilateral and multilateral partners accept these words of sincere gratitude and my request that they continue supporting the next government, especially in helping us gradually build the capacity to reduce our dependence on them.

I also want to thank all religious leaders for their prayers for me, for our government, and for our nation. I thank them also for their support [of] the government. Much of the success in social-service delivery depended on their cooperation. And their agitation for a fairer global system and for debt relief was very helpful. The task is not yet complete; I ask them to continue working with the next government towards this end.

I will always cherish the confidence and trust that the people of Tanzania reposed in me, honouring me with the unquestionable mandate to lead the nation for ten years. In 1995 they elected me with 61.8 percent of the votes. In 2000 they increased their confidence, re-electing me with 71.7 percent of the votes. As if this was not enough, they have always shown great love and affection for me, praying to God for my health when I was hospitalized and sending me hundreds of get-well-soon wishes. I also thank them for their participation in various development initiatives. I am truly grateful.

I thank my predecessors in this high office: our father of the nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, and Mzee Ali Hassan Mwinyi. I have always had the greatest respect and admiration for them. I will continue to do so. They helped to build strong foundations for this new independent nation, a confident and proud nation. What I achieved in the last ten years is built on the foundation they built. I should like to believe that our next president will inherit from me much more to continue building on.

All this is possible if we maintain discipline, if we are ready to be innovative and hardworking, if our leaders are upright and accountable to the people, if we embrace openness and truthfulness, and if we remain confident of our latent capabilities and committed to the imperatives of self-reliance and self-development.

In democratic governance, the right to govern derives from the people. Once elected to power you can either govern or lead. I prefer to lead. When you govern you compel. When you lead you persuade and convince. You do not have to be a democrat to govern. Even colonizers and dictators govern. But to lead is to show the way, it is about being a good example to those you lead, it is the ability to make people feel confident and secure when they follow you. They follow you not because they are terrified of you, but because they love and trust you. And trust is not given for words but earned by deeds, by the direction you take, and by genuinely caring about people. For as one religious leader once said, 'Maturity begins to grow when you can sense your concern for others outweighing your concern for yourself'.

I believe earnestly that our people should be led, not governed. I believe earnestly that it is the people's inalienable right to be convinced about a government's policies and agenda. And I believe that such a right cannot be fully enjoyed if the government is not willing to be open and accountable, to explain always to the people what it is doing, to what end, with the people's taxes and in the people's name.

The next Parliament and the next government will be under great pressure to meet the people's heightened expectations. I wish them every success. There is a proverb that says, 'If you wish to know what a man is, place him in authority'. I am about to come to the end of my time in authority. The people now know me. My hope and prayer is that those we will together put in power later this year will, in the end, be known for their goodness, for their wisdom, for their genuine concern for people, for their commitment to fighting poverty and injustice, and for their innovativeness and integrity.

I have tried, with all my energies and intellect, to lead our country diligently and justly, with integrity, with commitment, and with courage. I have ensured the country remains peaceful and united, living amicably with our neighbours and earning deserved respect regionally and internationally. I have worked hard and innovatively to develop new ideas and strategies and to create the right domestic and international environment for economic take-off, with economic growth rates that can empower us to overcome degrading poverty. I thank all those who prayed to God on my behalf, and God gave me the physical and intellectual energy to complete successfully the tasks that history placed upon me. The time has come for me to wind up the third-phase government. The time is approaching for me to hand over the baton to the next runner.

I will leave happily, confident that our next president will hit the ground running, taking forward the good things with new energy, new vigour, and new speed.

I thank you once again, Honourable Speaker and all members of Parliament, for your great cooperation. I wish you all the best. And now I

dissolve this Parliament according to the provision of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania and the relevant procedures.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Hotuba ya Rais Wa Jamhuri ya

Muungano wa Tanzania, Mheshimiwa

Benjamin William Mkapa, Akiagana

na Bunge La Jamhuri ya Muungano

wa Tanzania Na Kulivunja, Ukumbi

wa Bunge

29 Julai 2005

Dodoma

Wakati umefika, kwa mujibu wa Katiba ya Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania, kuvunja Bunge hili ili kutoa nafasi kwa Uchaguzi Mkuu mwingine kufanyika.

Katiba niliyoapa kuulinda, kuihifadhi na kuitetea imeweka ukomo wa vipindi viwili, vya miaka mitano mitano, vya kuongoza taifa kwa nafasi ya Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania. Ikifika mwezi Novemba 2005 nitakuwa nimefikia ukomo huo na nitampisha Mtanzania mwingine ambaye sote tutashiriki kumchagua. Hivyo, tofauti na wengi wenu, mimi sitagombea Urais wala Ubunge. Najua wengi wenu mtagombea, kutafuta ridhaa ya wananchi kuendelea kuwawakilisha. Nawataki kila la kheri nyote mtakaojitosa tena kwenye uwanja wa mapambano ya kisiasa. Najua mawazo yenu wakati huu yako majimboni. Lakini naomba mnisikilize kwa makini.

Wale ambao, hamgombei tena ninakupongezeni sana kwa utumishi mrefu kwa wananchi, mkiwa Wabunge na wengine Mawaziri. Kwa niaba ya wananchi ninakushukuruni sana kwa kazi nzuri mliyoifanya, na kwa kuonyesha mfano bora wa uongozi wa kupishana kwa kuamua, kwa ridhaa yenu, ili kutoa nafasi kwa wengine nao wawatumikie

wananchi, na mawazo mapya yaingie humu Bungeni. Kwa kufanya hivyo mnasaidia sana kujenga na kuimarisha misingi ya demokrasia, uwajibikaji na maendeleo. Ahsanteni sana.

Kabla sijalivunja Bunge lako Tukufu ninayo mengi sana ya kushukuru. Shukrani zangu za kwanza ni kwa Mwenyezi Mungu, ambaye kwa rehema zake ametuhifadhi, akatupa afya ya mwili na akili, na kutupa uhai na uwezo wa kuwatumikia Watanzania wenzetu. Tunamshukuru Mwenyezi Mungu pia kwa maisha ya utumishi wa wenzetu katika Bunge hili ambao wametangulia mbele ya haki. Tuungane sote kuzidi kuwaombea kwa Mwenyezi Mungu aziweke roho zao mahali pema peponi.

Shukrani zangu za pili ni kwako binafsi, Mheshimiwa Spika. Ujuzi, uzoefu, uwezo, uhodari, umakini na umahiri wako katika kazi ya Spika unajulikana vema ndani na nje ya Bunge hili, ndani na nje ya nchi yetu, na umeletea taifa letu heshima kubwa kwenye Jumuiya ya Madola na kwingineko. Umeongoza vema, kwa haki na usawa, Bunge la vyama vingi vya siasa na kujipatia heshima kutoka pande zote za Bunge hili, upande wa Chama Tawala na upande wa kambi ya upinzani; upande wa Serikali na upande wa Wabunge wa kawaida. Umewasaidia Wabunge, hasa wale wapya, kuelewa wajibu wao na taratibu na kanuni za Bunge la vyama vingi. Ninakushukuru sana kwa kufanikisha mageuzi haya ya kisiasa nchini, hususan ndani ya Bunge hili Tukufu.

Nimekuja kuwashukuru Waheshimiwa Wabunge, wa vyama vyote, kwa ushirikiano mkubwa uliowezesha mabadiliko na mageuzi makubwa ya kisiasa na kiuchumi katika nchi yetu katika miaka karibu kumi sasa ya uongozi wangu. Bila wao kupitisha sera, sheria na bajeti zilizopendekezwa na Serikali, mafanikio yanayohusishwa na Serikali ya Awamu ya Tatu yasingepatikana. Kusema kweli mafanikio hayo yametokana na ubia mzuri uliopo kati ya Serikali na Bunge. Ninyi Waheshimiwa Wabunge mnayo kila sababu ya kujihusisha na kujivunia mafanikio hayo. Ninakushukuruni kwa ushirikiano uliowezesha mabadiliko ya Katiba ninayoamini yanapanua demokrasia, ikiwemo kwa kuongeza idadi ya wanawake katika Bunge, kuanzisha Tume

ya Haki za Binadamu na Utawala Bora, na uimarishaji wa haki za binadamu. Tumepiga hatua kubwa kwenye masuala hayo, ingawaje nakiri bado kazi inapaswa kuendelea.

Kupitia Bunge hili sheria 599 zimekekebisha na kuchujwa, na hatimaye zikabaki 418 tu. Miongoni mwa sheria zilizofutwa au kurekebisha ni zile 40 zilizobainishwa na Tume ya Nyalali ambazo 29 kati yake ndizo zilizo ndani ya mamlaka ya Bunge hili. Aidha, kupitia Bunge hili miswada ya sheria zaidi ya 210 imepitishwa na kusaidia kuimarisha utawala bora; kuleta na kufanikisha mageuzi ya kiuchumi, kisiasa na kijamii; na kusaidia utekelezaji wa Serikali na kurutubisha umoja na utaifa wetu.

BUNGE

Chini ya uongozi wako, ambao sifa zake nimekwishazitaja, Bunge hili limeendelea kuwa tulivu na makini. Tofauti na nchi nyingine, hapa sijasikia mmerushiana makonde au kutukanana. Wengi miongoni mwa Waheshimiwa Wabunge wamedhihirisha kuwa hapa ni mahali pa kushindanisha mawazo ya kuendeleza maslahi ya wananchi wote bila ubaguzi. Narudia ninachokisema mara kwa mara. Upinzani si uadui, na nguvu ya hoja inayoridhiwa inaweza kutoka upande wa vyama vyote. Yatakuwa majigambo yasiyokuwa na maana kudai kuwa CCM peke yetu ndio wenye ukiritimba wa fikra.

Lakini nawaomba pia vyama vya upinzani walete mawazo mapya, na wasibaki kujibu au kupinga tu kila kinachosemwa au kutendwa na Serikali ya CCM. Maana kama nilivyowahi kusema, hatuwezi sote kufikiri sawa. Mwenyezi Mungu hakutuumba hivyo. Tukikubaliana kwa kila kitu ina maana wengine wetu hawafikiri vya kutosha. Na kama alivyosema Albert Einstein, “Nimekwisha kumdharau afuatiliaye tu mawazo ya wengine kama vile mtu afuataye amri kwenye gwaride. Huyo amepewa ubongo kwa makosa, maana kwake yeye uti wa mgongo ungetosha.”

Kwa upande wetu, Serikali imejitahidi kuweka mazingira bora ya Bunge hili kutimiza wajibu wake kwa taifa. Nitataja baadhi tu ya yale tuliyoweza kuyafanya.

1. Tumenunua jengo hili kwa ajili ya Bunge kwa sh. 9.9 bilioni, na jengo jipya na kubwa zaidi linaendelea kujengwa hapo nje. Ofisi ndogo ya Dar es Salaam imepanuliwa na kukarabatiwa, na ofisi ya Bunge Zanzibar inajengwa;
2. Huduma za utafiti kwa Wabunge zimeanzishwa, sambamba na maktaba ya kisasa yenye majarida, vitabu, kompyuta na huduma za intaneti;
3. Bunge limewezeshwa kimuundo kwa kuanzisha Kamati za Kudumu za Kisekta ambazo zinajadili miswada, maazimio ya kuridhiwa na makadirio ya bajeti za wizara kwa uwazi zaidi. Utaratibu wa kusikiliza maoni ya wananchi (Public Hearing) ulioanzishwa unatoa fursa kwa Wabunge kusikiliza hoja na maoni ya wananchi kabla ya kuamua mambo mazito yenye maslahi makubwa kwa taifa;
4. Bunge limewezeshwa kuchapisha kumbukumbu za kila siku ndani ya muda wa saa 24 na kuziweka kwenye tovuti ya Bunge iliyoanzishwa katika kipindi hiki cha Serikali ya Awamu ya Tatu;
5. Mahusiano ya Bunge letu na Mabunge mengine yameimarishwa, mafunzo yametolewa kwa Wabunge na Watumishi wa Ofisi ya Bunge, ikiwemo kupitia safari za nje za Wabunge na Watumishi hao;
6. Maslahi ya Wabunge yameboreshwa. Bila shaka hii ni sababu mojawapo ya wasomi na wanataaluma wengi kujitokeza kuwania majimbo mnayoyawakilisha ninyi hivi sasa.

Mojawapo ya mambo tuliyoyafanya katika miaka hii 10 iliyopita ni kuongeza idadi ya wanawake kwenye nafasi za maamuzi kwenye uongozi. Tumepitisha marekebisha ya 14 ya Katiba ya Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania yanayotaka asilimia isiyopungua 30 ya Wabunge wawe wanawake. Kwa hali halisi, idadi hiyo itafikiwa tu iwapo Wabunge wa majimbo ambao ni wanawake watakuwa si chini ya 15. Kwa hiyo nawahimiza wanawake wajitokeze kwa wingi kugombea kwenye majimbo.

Lengo la Umoja wa Afrika ni kufikia uwiano wa asilimia 50. Ili kufikia kiwango hicho, na hata ili kuwa na uhakika wa asilimia 30, itabidi katika Bunge lijalo kutazama upya utaratibu wa kuwapata Wabunge wanawake.

Katika hotuba yangu ya kwanza kwa Bunge, tarehe 30 Novemba 1995, nilichambua hali ya nchi na kuelezea malengo ya Serikali ya Awamu ya Tatu katika nyanja mbalimbali, ikiwamo Siasa, Uchumi, Huduma za Jamii, Ulinzi na Usalama na Ushirikiano wa Kimataifa. Katika hotuba hii ya mwisho kwenu nawajibika kuainisha, japo kwa muhtasari tu, mafanikio yaliyopatikana.

SIASA

Tofauti na hali ilivyokuwa mwaka 1995, mfumo wa demokrasia ya vyama vingi sasa umezoeleka na kuimarika. Upinzani baina ya vyama vya siasa ni jambo la kawaida hivi sasa. Serikali imeweka mazingira mazuri ya vyama kuanzishwa, na vile vyenye Wabunge hupewa ruzuku ya Serikali ili viweze kuhimili gharama za uendeshaji. Idadi ya vyama vya siasa imeongezeka kutoka 13 mwaka 1995 hadi 18 mwaka huu. Ninatamani ongezeko hilo lingeshirika uboreshaji na ukomavu wa demokrasia. Sina uhakika kama hivyo ndivyo. Lakini nina uhakika kuwa ongezeko hilo ni kielelezo cha uhuru wa kisiasa, ambalo nalo peke yake ni jambo jema.

Tangu 1995 tumefanya chaguzi kadhaa ambazo nyingi, na kwa ujumla, zilikuwa za amani na utulivu, huru na haki. Na siku hadi siku, uchaguzi hadi uchaguzi, tumeendelea kutumia uzoefu wetu na uzoefu wa wengine kuboresha mfumo, na utaratibu wa uchaguzi katika demokrasia ya vyama vingi. Tunakwenda mbele, haturudi nyuma. Tunapokosea tunajisahihisha. Tupatapo tatizo hatukati tamaa; tunashirikiana kutafuta ufumbuzi. Miongoni mwa hatua tulizochukua na tunazoendelea kuzichukua ni hizi zifuatazo:

1. Tulifikia Muafaka baina ya vyama vya CCM na CUF wa 2001, ambao utekelezaji wake karibu unakamilika. Juhudi zinaendelea hivi sasa, kwa kushirikiana na vyama vyote vya

siasa vyenye usajili kamili, kuandaa Muafaka wa Kitaifa kwenye mambo ya kisiasa, na hatimaye kwenye mwelekeo wa kiuchumi na kijamii;

2. Juhudi zinaendelea hivi sasa baina ya vyama vyote vya siasa vyenye usajili kamili kukubaliana juu ya maadili ya uchaguzi huru na wa haki;
3. Tumeanzisha na kukamilisha kazi ya kuandaa Daftari la Kudumu la Wapiga Kura;
4. Tumeongeza uwazi kwenye mchakato wote wa kupiga na kuhesabu kura. Tumeanzisha matumizi ya masanduku yanayoonyesha ndani, na kura zinahesabiwa pale zinapopigiwa, mbele ya wawakilishi wa vyama;
5. Tumepunguza sana utegemezi wa Serikali kwa wahisani kwenye kugharamia uchaguzi. Hivi sasa tunahimili wenyewe sehemu kubwa ya gharama za uchaguzi, jambo ambalo ni kielelezo cha uhuru wetu kwenye jambo la msingi kama hili la Uchaguzi; na
6. Vyombo vya habari vina nafasi kubwa katika kupanua uhuru wa maoni, ikiwemo kwenye mambo ya kisiasa. Katika miaka 10 iliyopita idadi ya magazeti ya kila siku imeongezeka kutoka 22 hadi 42; magazeti ya kila wiki kutoka 67 hadi 171, na vituo vya redio kutoka 2 hadi 63. Ongezeko hili karibu lote ni la vyombo vya habari binafsi. Na hata vile vya Serikali vinajitahidi kutoa fursa sawa kwa vyama vyote vya siasa. Ninachooomba ni kuwa tunapoelekea kwenye Uchaguzi Mkuu, vyombo hivyo vya habari viwe makini, vinavyozingatia kwa ukamilifu maadili ya uandishi wa habari, na kutenda haki kwa watu wote, na vyama vyote.

Serikali ya Awamu ya Tatu imepanua sana uhuru wa wananchi. Na ndivyo inavyopasa. Haitoshi kuwa na nchi huru. Lazima wananchi nao wawe huru, lakini ndani ya mipaka iliyowekwa na Katiba na Sheria. Baadhi ya wanaharakati wa haki za binadamu wanapenda kutumia taifa la Marekani kama kigezo cha uhuru wa raia na haki za binadamu. Rais wa Nne wa

Marekani, James Madison, aliyeshiriki kuandika Katiba ya taifa hilo, alisema, “Uhuru unaweza kuhatarishwa na matumizi mabaya ya uhuru, kama vile unavyoweza kuhatarishwa na matumizi mabaya ya madaraka.” Hivyo tusipuuze hata kidogo hatari inayoweza kuikabili nchi yetu tukipuuza tabia zinazojitokeza za kutumia vibaya uhuru tulioanao.

UTAWALA BORA

Serikali ya Awamu ya Tatu imeonyesha kwa vitendo dhamira na utashi wa kisiasa wa kuboresha utawala. Sheria zimetungwa, kanuni zimewekwa, na uwazi umeongezwa katika shughuli za Serikali kwa lengo hilo. Tumeanzisha Tume ya Haki za Binadamu na Utawala Bora. Tumeanzisha pia Tume ya Maadili ya Viongozi. Tunajitahidi kuboresha mawasiliano baina ya Serikali na wananchi. Ndio maana kila mwisho wa mwezi ninazungumza moja kwa moja na wananchi kuhusu masuala muhimu kwao, kuhusu maamuzi mbalimbali ya Serikali, na sababu zake.

Tangu mwanzo kabisa wa Serikali ya Awamu ya Tatu nilisema kuwa sera yangu ni Uwazi na Ukweli, nikawaambia viongozi wenzangu kwenye Chama Cha Mapinduzi kuwa ni afadhali nichukiwe kwa kuwa mkweli kuliko nipendwe kwa kuwa mwongo na mlaghai. Watanzania walinieleva, wakaniamini na wakashirikiana nami. Ninawashukuru sana.

Hotuba zangu za kila mwisho wa mwezi ni mojawapo ya jitihada zangu za kuhakikisha wananchi wanajua Serikali inafanya nini, kwa sababu gani, na kwa faida gani kwao. Mimi ninaamini kuwa si haki hata kidogo kuwaongoza wananchi kwenda wasikokujua, au bila kuwaeleza sababu za kwenda huko. Serikali inayojiamini, na inayowajibika kwa wananchi, inakuwa wazi kwao. Haina sababu ya kujificha. Kiongozi aliyejiridhisha kuwa jambo fulani ni la manufaa kwa wananchi wake hana sababu za kuogopa kuwa mkweli, na kueleza kwa nguvu za hoja, kwa nini sera, mikakati na mambo fulani ni ya lazima.

Nimeanzisha, katika ofisi yangu, Idara ya Mawasiliano, na karibu kila Wizara sasa ina afisa mwandamizi ambaye ana jukumu la msingi la kuhakikisha taarifa za shughuli za Serikali

zinawafikia wananchi, ikiwemo kupitia kwenye vyombo vya habari. Nilipozindua mfumo na utaratibu huu tarehe 18 Machi 2003 kule Bagamoyo nilielezea kwa kirefu wajibu wa Serikali kuwasiliana na wananchi. Wajibu huo, katika nchi ya kidemokrasia, unatokana na haki ya wananchi kufahamishwa, na haki yao ya kusikilizwa, kwa mambo yanayowagusa au kuwahusu. Wajibu huo wa Serikali kuwa wazi kwa wananchi wake ni jambo la lazima kwa Serikali ya kidemokrasia, si jambo la hiari.

Faida mojawapo ya kuwa na Serikali iliyo wazi kwa wananchi ni kuimarisha dhana ya uwajibikaji na nidhamu katika kazi za Serikali. Tumeanza, lakini bado safari ni ndefu. Wengine Serikalini bado wanadhani kila kitu cha Serikali ni Siri Kali; hata madhambi yao yawe siri. Hayo ni makosa makubwa, lakini itatuchukua muda kubadili fikra na mitazamo ya kila kiongozi. Lakini lazima twende mbele, kamwe tusirudi nyuma. Serikali ya Tanzania lazima iwe ya wananchi, inayotokana na ridhaa ya wananchi, inayowajibika kwa wananchi, na isiyoogopa kuwa wazi kwao.

Kwa upana zaidi, tukijumuisha na wanasiasa, lazima sasa tujenge uwezo si wa kuwa wazi zaidi tu, bali pia wa kuelekeza siasa zetu kwenye mambo ya msingi na kutafuta ufumbuzi wa matatizo ya wananchi. Bado tunayo hulka ya siasa za lawama. Tunakuwa wepesi wa kulaumu, na wavivu wa kutafiti na kujenga hoja za sera na mikakati mbadala. Siasa zetu bado ni za shutuma, lawama na uhodari wa kusema na “kutema cheche,” badala ya siasa zinazopimwa kwa matokeo ya kazi, na manufaa kwa wananchi.

Niliapa kuilinda, kuihifadhi na kuitetea Katiba ya Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania. Katiba hiyo imeweka wazi mgawanyo wa madaraka na majukumu baina ya Serikali, kwa maana ya Utendaji, Bunge na Mahakama. Katika miaka hii 10 iliyopita si tu nimeheshimu sana mgawanyo huo, bali nimejitahidi kuurutubisha na kuuimarisha. Na ninakushukuru wewe na Mheshimiwa Jaji Mkuu kwa ushirikiano wenu kwa lengo hilo muhimu kwa nchi yetu.

Katika muda uliobaki wa uongozi wangu wa taifa nitajitahidi kuhitimisha, au japo kuanzisha, maamuzi mbalimbali ya kuboresha utawala ambayo nisingependa kumbebesha Rais wetu

ajaye. Mojawapo ni madai ya wananchi ambayo nilikuwa sijayaamua ya kugawa baadhi ya wilaya. Maombi ni mengi. Serikali haina uwezo wa kuyakubali yote kwa wakati mmoja.

Kwa kuzingatia mahitaji maalum kiutawala, kiulinzi, kiusalama na ili kuimarisha ujirani mwema mipakani, nimeamua kugawa baadhi ya wilaya zilizo huko kama ifuatavyo:

- Wilaya ya Muheza itagawanywa kuwa mbili: Wilaya ya Muheza na Wilaya ya Mkinga;
- Wilaya ya Monduli itagawanywa kuwa mbili: Wilaya ya Monduli na Wilaya ya Longido;
- Wilaya ya Bukoba Vijijini itagawanywa kuwa mbili: Wilaya ya Bukoba Vijijini na Wilaya ya Misenyi;
- Wilaya ya Hai itagawanywa kuwa mbili: Wilaya ya Hai na Wilaya ya Siha;
- Wilaya ya Masasi itagawanywa kuwa mbili: Wilaya ya Masasi na Wilaya ya Nanyumbu;
- Wilaya ya Biharamulo itagawanywa kuwa mbili: Wilaya ya Biharamulo na Wilaya ya Chato; na
- Kwa sababu maalum Wilaya Dodoma Vijijini itagawanywa kuwa mbili: Wilaya ya Bahi na Wilaya ya Chamwino.

Naagiza utaratibu wa kuzigawa wilaya hizi uanze mara moja, lakini kuundwa kwa Serikali kutanguliwe na kasi ya wananchi kuchangia ujenzi wa miundombinu na Jengo la Utawala.

RUSHWA

Mojawapo ya mambo niliyosema nitayavalia njuga nilipoingia madarakani ni vita dhidi ya rushwa. Yapo mengine mengi, lakini wapo wanaotaka uongozi wangu utathminiwe kwa kigezo kimoja tu cha rushwa, wakidhani sikutimiza ahadi yangu. Si kweli. Rushwa bado ipo, kama ilivyo katika nchi zote duniani kwa viwango tofauti, lakini katika miaka 10 iliyopita tumefanya kazi kubwa sana kupambana nayo.

Mwanzoni kabisa niliunda tume ya kuchunguza mianya ya rushwa iliyoongozwa na Mheshimiwa Jaji Joseph Sinde Warioba. Matokeo ya kazi ya tume hiyo ni kufanyika kwa mabadiliko

katika sera, miundo ya taasisi na sheria ili kuziba mianya ya rushwa. Baadhi ya sheria zilizotungwa au kufanyiwa marekebisha ni:

1. Sheria ya Utumishi wa Umma Na. 8 ya mwaka 2002;
2. Sheria ya Maadili ya Viongozi Na. 5 ya mwaka 2001;
3. Sheria ya Ununuzi wa Vifaa vya Serikali Na. 3 ya mwaka 2001;
4. Sheria ya Fedha za Serikali Na. 6 ya mwaka 2001;
5. Sheria ya Ardhi Na. 4 ya mwaka 1999, na
6. Sheria ya Ardhi ya Vijiji Na. 5 ya mwaka 1999.

Mkakati wa Kitaifa wa Kupambana na Rushwa ulianzishwa rasmi mwaka 2001 kwa lengo la kuongeza tija, kuboresha mazingira ya taasisi za umma na kuelimisha umma juu ya haki na wajibu wake katika kukabiliana na tatizo la rushwa. Serikali imechukua hatua za kuimarisha Taasisi ya Kuzuia Rushwa (TAKURU) ili iweze kutekeleza majukumu yake inavyostahili. Hatua hizo ni pamoja na kuongeza bajeti yake mara 600, kutoka sh. 15 milioni mwaka 1996–1997 hadi sh. 9 bilioni mwaka 2004–2005. Aidha, tumeongeza idadi ya watumishi wa taasisi hiyo kutoka 185 hadi 700 mwaka 2004, baadhi yao wakiwa ni waendesha mashtaka na wapelelezi. Hivi sasa Ofisi za TAKURU zimeanzishwa katika Mikoa yote na Wilaya 93 za Tanzania Bara ili kusogeza huduma hiyo karibu zaidi na wananchi. Kwa hiyo tumeongeza bajeti, tumepanua mtandao na tumeongeza uwezo wa utendaji, yaani upelelezi, kuendesha mashitaka, kuhamasisha jamii na kutoa ushauri kwa Serikali. Juhudi hizo za Serikali zimewezesha kuchukuliwa hatua mbalimbali kwa waliojijhusisha na vitendo vya rushwa.

Kati ya Januari, 2002 hadi Juni 2004, watumishi 456 walipewa barua za onyo au karipio, 362 walisimamishwa kazi, 403 walifukuzwa kazi au kustaafishwa kwa manufaa ya umma na 138 walifikishwa katika vyombo vya dola. Kuanzia mwaka 1995 hadi 2004, jumla ya tuhuma 11,434 zilipokelewa na TAKURU na kati ya hizo 9,891 zilifanyiwa uchunguzi. Tuhuma 975 zilipelekwa kwa mamlaka husika ili zichukue

hatua kwa watuhumiwa. Jumla ya kesi 367 za rushwa zilifunguliwa mahakamani na kesi 174 zimetolewa uamuzi. Kwa kuwa mapambano ya rushwa si ya Serikali pekee, TAKURU imeanzisha na kukuza ushirikiano na Taasisi Zisizo za Kiserikali zaidi ya 16.

Serikali iliongeza kasi ya kuelimisha umma kuhusu vita dhidi ya rushwa kwa njia ya redio, mikutano ya hadhara, semina, vijarida, vipeperushi, magazeti, televisheni, kalenda na michezo ya kuigiza. Jumla ya vipindi vya redio 857 vimerushwa hewani, kalenda 65,200 zilisambazwa kwa wananchi, na nakala 205,500 za jarida la rushwa zilichapishwa na kusambazwa. Vipeperushi 30,500, mabango 5,000 na matangazo ya kukemea rushwa 474 yalitolewa magazetini na kwenye televisheni. Jumla ya mada 1,310 za kuelimisha umma zimetolewa sehemu mbalimbali.

Wapo Watanzania ambao hawataki kukiri kuwa tumepiga hatua kwenye vita dhidi ya rushwa. Lakini dunia inakiri hivyo. Watafiti wa Benki ya Dunia wameonyesha kuwa katika kipindi cha 1996–2004, Tanzania ndiyo nchi pekee barani Afrika iliyopiga hatua kubwa kuimarisha utawala bora kwa vigezo vyote vitatu vya Sauti na Kuwajibika kwa Wananchi; Utendaji wa Serikali; na Kudhibiti Rushwa. Hali kadhalika hata shirika la *Transparency International* linakiri hivyo. Sasa hawa ndani ya nchi ambao hawaoni bila shaka wana lao jambo. Sisemi rushwa imekwisha, natetea rekodi yetu ya dhamira ya wazi na juhudi za wazi, za kupambana na rushwa.

Nimejitahidi sana wakati wa uongozi wangu kuvunja, au haidhuru kupunguza, sifa mbaya zinazohusishwa na wanasiasa. Ni vizuri tuwe wakweli na waadilifu.

Wazazi fulani wa makamo walikuwa bado wanaishi na kijana wao wa kiume ambaye alikuwa hajaamua anataka afanye kazi gani. Wazazi wale wakaamua kumsaidia kuamua kwa kumfanyia mtihamu mdogo. Wakachukua vitu vitatu: Noti ya sh.10,000/=; Biblia; na chupa ya pombe aina ya *whisky*, wakaviweka mlangoni ili kijana wao akifungua mlango tu avione. Wazazi wakajificha waone itakuwaje.

Baba wa kijana yule akamwambia mkewe, “Kijana wetu akichukua fedha, atakuwa

mfanyabiashara; akichukua Biblia bila shaka atakuwa padri; na-Mungu apishie mbali- akichukua chupa ya *whisky* atakuwa mlevi.”

Baada ya muda, kijana akarudi nyumbani kutoka matembezini. Akafungua mlango na kukuta vile vitu vitatu. Wazazi wakawa wanachungulia kupitia tundu la ufunguo. Kijana akachukua noti ya sh.10,000/=, akaiangalia kwenye mwanga kujiridhisha kama ni halali, kisha akaitia mfukoni. Halafu akachukua Biblia, akaifungua fungua, na kisha akaitia mfukoni. Mwisho akafungua chupa ya *whisky*, akaonja ili ajiridhishe na ubora wake, kisha nayo akaitia mfukoni. Akaenda chumbani kwake na vitu vyote vitatu.

Wazazi wakabaki wameduwaa. Kisha Baba yake akajipiga kofi kwenye paji la uso, na kumwambia mkewe. “Sasa najua. Mwanetu bila shaka atakuwa mwanasiasa!!”

Hiyo ni sifa ya wanasiasa ambayo ningependa sisi Watanzania tusikashifiwe nayo!

UCHUMI

Mojawapo ya mambo ya msingi kabisa kwenye uchumi wa soko ni kuimarisha uchumi mkuu, na kuweka mazingira ya kukuza uchumi na kuhimili ushindani wa kikanda na kimataifa. Kwenye Bunge hili Mawaziri wanaohusika wameeleza tuliyoyafanya kwenye miaka 10 iliyopita. Sipendi kuyarejea yote. Nitataja machache tu.

Duniani kote pima joto muhimu ya afya ya uchumi wa nchi ni mfumuko wa bei. Sisi tumefanikiwa kuushusha kutoka asilimia 27.1 mwaka 1995 hadi asilimia 4.2 mwaka jana, 2004. Sambamba na kushuka kwa mfumuko wa bei, kasi ya ukuaji Pato la Taifa imeongezeka kutoka asilimia 3.6 mwaka 1995 hadi 6.7 mwaka 2004. Akiba ya fedha za kigeni imeongezeka sana. Mapato ya Serikali nayo yameongezeka kutoka wastani wa sh. 37.4 bilioni kwa mwezi katika mwaka wa fedha wa 1995–1996 hadi wastani wa zaidi ya sh. 140 bilioni kwa mwezi katika mwaka wa fedha wa 2004–2005. Tumetumia nyongeza hiyo ya mapato kuboresha mazingira ya kazi Serikalini, maslahi ya wafanyakazi na uwekezaji kwenye maeneo muhimu ya vita dhidi ya umaskini ikiwemo elimu, afya, maji, barabara na

UKIMWI, na kugharamia shughuli za asili za Serikali ikiwemo ulinzi na usalama.

Katika jitihada za kuboresha mapato yake, Serikali ilichukua hatua mbalimbali zikiwemo za kisera ili kupanua wigo wa kodi. Baadhi ya hatua hizo ni pamoja na:

1. Kuboresha Mfumo wa kodi na kuwianisha kodi mbalimbali ili kurahisisha utekelezaji. Aidha, kodi nyingine zenye tija ndogo na kero kwa wananchi zimefutwa, ikiwemo kodi ya maendeleo;
2. Usimamizi wa ukusanyaji wa mapato umeimarishwa katika kodi zote ikiwa ni pamoja na kufunga mita za mafuta (*flow meters*) Bandarini Dar es Salaam na ununuzi wa king'amuzi cha makontena (*container scanner*);
3. Kuanzishwa kwa Kodi ya Ongezeko la Thamani (VAT) mwaka 1998;
4. Kufuta Sheria ya Kodi ya Mapato ya mwaka 1973 na kutungwa kwa Sheria ya Kodi ya Mapato ya mwaka 2004;
5. Kuanzisha Bodi na Baraza la Rufaa za Kodi mwaka 2000;
6. Kufanya marekebisha ya Sheria ya Mwenendo wa Shughuli za Forodha;
7. Kuziba mianya ya ukwepaji kodi, na kufuta misamaha holela ya kodi; na
8. Kurekebisha viwango vya kodi kila mwaka na vingine kuanzishwa, ili kuvutia uwekezaji, kuvutia watu kulipa kodi kwa hiari.

Katika kipindi cha miaka kumi iliyopita, Serikali pia imeanzisha mageuzi makubwa katika mfumo wa kutayarisha bajeti na uhasibu kwa kuanzisha mfumo wa matumizi ya mtandao wa kompyuta kwa Wizara na Idara za Serikali na Mikoa yote. Mtandao huo umeleta mafanikio makubwa katika matayarisho ya bajeti na usimamizi wa fedha na umekuwa ni mfano wa kuigwa kwa nchi nyingi, za jirani na mbali, ambapo zimetuma wajumbe kuja kujifunza. Aidha, mtandao huo upo vilevile kwenye Halmashauri 32 na utasambazwa kwa Halmashauri nyingine 30 kuanzia mwaka huu wa fedha, 2005–2006.

Mengi ya haya niliyoyataja hadi sasa hayamalizi umaskini, lakini bila kufanyika juhudi zote nyingine za kupiga vita umaskini haziwezi kufanikiwa. Hatua nilizozitaja zimesaidia kuweka mazingira bora zaidi ya uwekezaji, uzalishaji mali na utoaji huduma, na kuwawezesha wananchi wa kawaida kujiendeleza.

Tumejitahidi sana kuboresha mazingira ya kuvutia wawekezaji wa nje na wa ndani. Duniani kote nchi zinashindana kuvutia wawekezaji, na kutoa vivutio mbalimbali. Huo ndio ukweli wa dunia ya utandawazi, na ndio mkakati pekee wenye uhakika wa kuingiza nchini teknolojia ya kisasa, mitaji, ajira, na uwezo wa ushindani kwenye uchumi wa soko duniani.

Vivutio vya uwekezaji vinatolewa sawa baina ya wawekezaji wa nje na ndani. Ninaendelea kuwahimiza Watanzania kutumia vizuri fursa na vivutio vya uwekezaji. Ningependa Watanzania ndio wawe wanafaidika zaidi ya ilivyo sasa. Lakini wasipozitumia fursa hizo hatuwezi kuwazuia wageni. Maana kama methali moja kutoka Ethiopia isemavyo, “Mtoto wa kwanza akifanya mzaha, wa mwisho anarithi ng’ombe.”

Tangu 1995 hadi 2004, Kituo cha Uwekezaji kimeidhinisha miradi 2,527 iliyotoa nafasi za ajira karibu 500,000. Asilimia 44 ya miradi hiyo inamilikiwa na wawekezaji wa ndani, asilimia 32 ni ya ubia kati ya wawekezaji wa ndani na wa nje, na ni asilimia 24 tu ndiyo ya wawekezaji wa nje. Uwekezaji huo umesaidia kuongeza uwiano wa Uwekezaji kwa Pato la Taifa kutoka asilimia 16.5 mwaka 1996 hadi asilimia 21 mwaka jana.

Kituo chetu cha Uwekezaji kimeshinda Tuzo ya Kituo Bora cha Uwekezaji Barani Afrika baada ya kushindanishwa na vituo vingine 41 barani Afrika.

Katika kutambua umuhimu wa sekta binafsi nchini Serikali ilianzisha Baraza la Taifa la Biashara mwaka 2001 ili kuboresha mashauriano kati ya Serikali na sekta binafsi. Hadi sasa mikutano mitano ya wawekezaji kutoka nje, na mitatu ya wawekezaji wa ndani ya nchi, imefanyika chini ya Uenyekiti wangu mimi mwenyewe.

Marekebisha ya sheria na kanuni mbalimbali zifuatazo zilisukumwa kwa kiasi fulani na mashauriano hayo:

1. Marekebisho ya kodi, ambapo vituo vya kushughulikia masuala ya kodi vimeanzishwa katika wilaya 66;
2. Marekebisho ya Sheria ya Ardhi ambayo yamekamiliwa;
3. Marekebisho katika mfumo wa utoaji leseni za biashara ambayo yanaendelea;
4. Uboreshaji wa mazingira ya biashara nchini ili kuiwezesha sekta binafsi ishiriki kwa kiwango kikubwa zaidi katika uchumi yanaendelea;
5. Kutungwa kwa Sheria mpya za Ajira na Mahusiano Kazini; na
6. Kuboresha mazingira ya kufanyia biashara (*Business Environment Strengthening Program for Tanzania [BEST]*) ikiwa ni pamoja na kuondoa urasimu na vikwazo vingine kwenye biashara.

Serikali pia inaendelea kuchukua hatua mbalimbali za kuwezesha ukuaji na maendeleo ya sekta binafsi ikiwa ni pamoja na utekelezaji wa Mradi wa Kuendeleza Biashara Ndogo na za Kati. Mpango huu unatekeleza Sera ya Taifa ya Kuendeleza Biashara Ndogo na za Kati (*MSE Policy*), na unalenga kwenye mambo yafuatayo:

1. Kuimarisha mazingira ya biashara nchini;
2. Kujenga uwezo wa rasilimali watu na kuimarisha ushindani wa makampuni. Kutoa elimu ya ujasiriamali pamoja na kuboresha elimu ya vitendo katika vyuo vya ufundi nchini; na
3. Kuboresha upatikanaji mikopo kwa biashara ndogo na za kati.

Serikali ya Awamu ya Tatu imechukua hatua kadhaa kuwawezesha wananchi kumiliki uchumi wao. Hatua hizo ni pamoja na:

1. Kuiboresha Sheria ya Benki Kuu ya mwaka 1995 na ile ya Mabenki na Asasi za Fedha ya mwaka 1991 ili sekta ya benki itoe mchango mkubwa zaidi katika kuwawezesha wananchi kiuchumi. Kutokana na hatua hiyo, mikopo ya mabenki kwa sekta binafsi imeongezeka kwa zaidi ya asilimia 30 katika kipindi cha miaka mitatu iliyopita;

2. Serikali imebuni Sera ya Taifa ya Mikopo Midogo Midogo (*National Microfinance Policy*) ya mwaka 2001. Taratibu na Kanuni za utekelezaji wa sera hiyo zimekamiliwa na kuchapishwa;
3. Sheria ya Ardhi ya 1999, na Marekebisho yake ya mwaka 2004, yatarahisisha upatikanaji mikopo ya benki kwa kutumia ardhi kama dhamana;
4. Serikali kwa kushirikiana na Benki Kuu imeendelea kuimarisha Mifuko ya Udamini wa Mikopo ya Mabenki kwa ajili ya mauzo ya bidhaa nje ya nchi (*Export Credit Guarantee Scheme [ECGS]*). Hadi sasa, mfuko huo una thamani ya sh. 19.8 bilioni. Mfuko huu umesaidia sana vyama vya ushirika kununua mazao ya biashara kwa wakulima;
5. Serikali imeanzisha Mfuko wa kudhamini mikopo ya mabenki kwa wafanyabiashara na wawekezaji wadogo. Kiasi cha sh. 2.0 bilioni kimetengwa hadi sasa;
6. Mwaka 2003 Serikali ilianzisha Mfuko wa Dhamana ya Uwekezaji (*Unit Trust of Tanzania [UTT]*). Kuanzia mwezi Mei 2005 wananchi wengi wameanza kujitokeza kununua hisa za Mfuko huu ulio na ruzuku ya Serikali ya asilimia 30 kwa kila kipande;
7. Tumeanzisha pia Mpango wa Kurasimisha Raslimali na Biashara za Wanyonge Tanzania. Tunatumia neno wanyonge, lakini ukweli ni kuwa hata miongoni mweni Wabunge hapa mnazo raslimali ambazo hazitambuliwi kisheria, na biashara zilizo nje ya mfumo rasmi wa kisheria. Hali hiyo inawafanya watu waonekane maskini na kumbe si maskini kiasi hicho. Utafiti uliofanywa hadi sasa unaonyesha kuwa asilimia 97 ya biashara zote nchini, zipatazo 871,000, zipo nje ya mfumo rasmi wa kisheria, na asilimia 86 ya nyumba mijini, kiasi cha nyumba 1,435,000, zenye thamani ya USD 11.6 bilioni zinamilikiwa nje ya mfumo rasmi wa kisheria. Takwimu hizi si vielelezo vya uchumi wa kisasa. Thamani hiyo ni mara 57 ya misaada na mikopo yote ya masharti nafuu mwaka 2002. Mpango huu ukikamilika utawawezesha wananchi

kutumia rasilimali zao kama dhamana ya kukopa fedha kutoka benki za biashara ili kukuza uchumi; na

8. Serikali imeanzisha Mfuko wa Maendeleo ya Jamii (TASAF). Awamu ya kwanza ya mpango huu iliyohusisha wilaya 40 za Tanzania Bara na Visiwani imekamiliika. Matunda ya mradi huu yanaonekana wazi sehemu mbalimbali nchini. Nilizindua Awamu ya Pili ya mpango huu tarehe 23 Mei 2005, mkoani Mwanza. Awamu hii itahusisha wilaya zote nchini na wananchi watanufaika na utaalam, fedha na nafasi za ajira ambazo zitatolewa kwa watu wenye vipato vidogo katika shughuli mbalimbali za maendeleo.

Miongoni mwa sekta zilizovutia zaidi wawekezaji wakubwa wa nje na ndani ni madini na utalii. Katika miaka 10 iliyopita zaidi ya USD 1.4 bilioni zimewekezwa katika sekta ya madini, na migodi mikubwa 6 ya dhahabu imeanza uzalishaji. Hivi sasa Tanzania ni nchi ya tatu barani Afrika kwa wingi wa dhahabu inayozalishwa, baada ya Afrika Kusini na Ghana. Mwaka 1995 tulizalisha tani 3 tu za dhahabu. Hivi sasa ni karibu tani 50, ongezeko la zaidi ya mara 16, na tunaendelea kuimarisha utaratibu wa kuthibitisha uzalishaji huo. Mauzo ya dhahabu nje ya nchi yameongezeka kutoka USD 2 milioni mwaka 1997 hadi USD 593.2 milioni mwaka jana, ongezeko la karibu mara 300.

Ilani ya Uchaguzi ya CCM ilitutaka tusaide wachimbaji wadogo. Katika miaka 10 iliyopita wachimbaji wadogo zaidi ya 10,000 walipewa mafunzo kuhusu mbinu za utafutaji na uchimbaji wa madini, kuhifadhi mazingira, na mbinu za kupata mikopo kutoka asasi za fedha. Mwaka 2004 kituo cha mafunzo ya kuchenjua dhahabu kilifunguliwa kule Matundasi, Chunya, kwa lengo la kuwapatia mafunzo wachimbaji wadogo. Taratibu za kuanzisha kituo cha mafunzo ya ukataji na kusanifu mawe na vito vya thamani Jijini Arusha zinaendelea. Chuo cha Madini Dodoma kinapanuliwa na kuboresha mitaala yake inayowalenga wachimbaji wadogo. Utaratibu umeandaliwa ambapo wachimbaji wadogo

wanaoingia mikataba na wauzaji wa vifaa vya uchimbaji mdogo wanasamehewa kodi ya Ongezeko la Thamani na Ushuru wa Forodha vifaa hivyo vinapoingia nchini. Na Serikali inashirikiana na Chama cha Wafanyabiashara wa Madini (TAMIDA) kuendesha minada ya hadhara ya vito ili kuwapa wachimbaji wadogo bei nzuri zaidi.

Kwa kipindi cha 1999 na 2004 maeneo yenye ukubwa wa kilometa za mraba 2,892 yalitengwa kwa ajili ya wachimbaji wadogo waliomilikishwa maeneo hayo huko Mererani Kitalu B na D, wilayani Simanjiro; Mvomero wilayani Mvomero; Kilindi wilayani Handeni, na Maganzo wilayani Kishapu. Mwaka huu maeneo mengine yenye ukubwa wa kilometa za mraba 204 huko Lusahunga, Mabuki na Nyangwale yametengwa kwa lengo hilo.

Si kweli hata kidogo kuwa Serikali inawajali wachimbaji madini wakubwa tu. Tunawajali pia wachimbaji wadogo. Si kweli pia kuwa Serikali haijali maslahi ya taifa. Tunazo sheria na kanuni bora za hifadhi ya mazingira na tunashindanisha wachimbaji wakubwa kila mwaka. Na vivutio tunavyotoa vinafanana na sehemu nyingi duniani, na vimezingatia haki ya wachimbaji wakubwa kurudisha gharama zao, kulipa mikopo yao na kuwapa wanahisa wao faida; lakini na sisi tupate stahili yetu. Maduhuli ya Serikali kutokana na sekta ya madini yameongezeka mara 53 kutoka sh. 432 milioni mwaka 1995 hadi sh. 23 bilioni mwaka jana. Katika miaka 5 tu ya 2000–2004 kampuni kubwa za kuchimba madini zimejenga huduma za kijamii zenye thamani ya sh. 1.5 bilioni.

Pamoja na matatizo ya magonjwa ya mlipuko na ugaidi duniani, utalii umeendelea kukua nchini mwetu kwa wastani wa asilimia 10 kwa mwaka katika miaka 10 iliyopita. Idadi imeongezeka karibu mara mbili kutoka 295,000 mwaka 1995 hadi 582,000 mwaka 2004, na mapato ya fedha za kigeni yakaongezeka karibu mara tatu katika kipindi hicho kutoka USD 258.1 milioni hadi USD 746.0 milioni. Nafasi za ajira kwenye sekta hii nazo zimeongezeka kutoka 96,000 hadi 160,750.

Kwa kadri uchumi unavyozidi kuwa wa soko ndivyo ilivyo lazima kuwa na mfumo imara wa udhibiti ili ushindani uwe wa haki na wateja walindwe.

Katika kuhakikisha kuwa wawekezaji wapya, ikiwemo kwenye mashirika yaliyobinafsishwa, wanafuata kanuni zilizowekwa, Serikali iliunda mamlaka mbalimbali za udhibiti ambazo ni pamoja na:

1. Mamlaka ya Udhibiti wa Usafirishaji wa nchi Kavu na Majini (SUMATRA) ambayo imekwishaanza kazi;
2. Mamlaka ya Udhibiti wa Mawasiliano Tanzania (TCRA) ambayo imekwishaanza kazi;
3. Mamlaka ya Udhibiti wa Usafiri wa Anga Tanzania (TCAA) ambayo imekwishaanza kazi;
4. Mamlaka ya Udhibiti wa Maji na Nishati (EWURA); na
5. Tume ya Ushindani wa Haki na Mahakama yake ambazo zitakamilika hivi karibuni baada ya nafasi za wajumbe wa Bodi na Watendaji Wakuu kutangazwa katika vyombo vya habari.

Mwaka 1993 wakati zoezi la ubinafsishaji lilipoanza Tanzania ilikadiriwa kuwa na mashirika ya umma yapatayo 400 yaliyokuwa na malimbikizo ya hasara kiasi cha USD 452 milioni, ambapo USD 100 milioni zilikuwa ni hasara ya kibiashara na USD 352 milioni zilikuwa hasara iliyotokana na mikopo iliyodhaminiwa na Serikali. Hadi kufikia Desemba 2004 jumla ya mashirika 312 kati ya 395 sawa na asilimia 79 yalibinafsishwa na mali 499 ambazo si mashirika kamili (*noncore assets*) ziliuzwa.

Tathmini iliyofanywa na Mtaalam Mwelekezi (M/s DCDM) ilidhihirisha mafanikio yafuatayo katika kutekeleza sera ya ubinafsishaji:

1. Kuchangia ongezeko la ukuaji wa Pato la Taifa;
2. Kuchangia ongezeko la makusanyo ya mapato ya ndani kutokana na mashirika yaliyobinafsishwa kulipa kodi;

3. Kuboreka kwa huduma muhimu kwa wananchi kwa kuiondolea Serikali mzigo wa kutoa ruzuku kwa mashirika ya kibiashara;
4. Kuingiza nchini teknolojia ya kisasa, ambapo miradi ya rasilimali na teknolojia yenye jumla ya USD 725.9 milioni imewekezwa katika mashirika yaliyobinafsishwa katika kipindi cha miaka 10 iliyopita;
5. Kuchangia ongezeko la nafasi za ajira ya moja kwa moja na isiyo ya moja kwa moja;
6. Kupanua sekta isiyo rasmi kwa kuipa nafasi ya kufanya biashara;
7. Kuchangia ongezeko la mauzo ya bidhaa nje ya nchi;
8. Kuongezeka kwa mishahara na posho kwa wafanyakazi katika mashirika yaliyobinafsishwa;
9. Kuongezeka kwa uzalishaji na ubora wa bidhaa ambazo zinakubalika kimataifa; na
10. Kuongezeka kwa wawekezaji wazalendo katika uchumi.

Mpango wa Ubinafsishaji kwa sasa umeelekezwa katika kubinafsisha mashirika makubwa ya huduma na miundombinu. Baadhi ya mashirika hayo ambayo ubinafsishaji wake upo katika hatua mbalimbali ni pamoja na Mamlaka ya Bandari Tanzania (THA); Shirika la Reli Tanzania (TRC); Shirika la Umeme Tanzania (TANESCO); Shirika la Bima la Taifa (NIC) na hisa zilizobaki za Shirika la Simu Tanzania (TTCL). Kazi hiyo inatarajiwa kukamilika mwaka 2007. Nasisitiza. Hatubinafsishi miundombinu; tunaikodisha tu kwa mwendesaji binafsi!

Hata hivyo, uzoefu wetu wa kubinafsisha uendesaji wa mashirika makubwa ya miundombinu na huduma umeonyesha haja ya kuangalia upya utaratibu unaotumika. Hivyo nimeunda Kamati ya Wataalam inifanyie tathmini na kuniletea mapendekezo ya namna ya kuendelea ili malengo ya kubinafsisha yafikiwe. Kubinafsisha ambako hakuleti tija na kuboresha huduma inayotolewa hakukubaliki.

Mengi ya haya tuliyoyafanya ni maandalizi ya uchumi wetu kukua kwa kasi kubwa zaidi, hadi asilimia 8–10 kwa mwaka. Inawezekana, lakini lazima Watanzania tuamke, na kutumia vizuri

zaidi mazingira haya ya kiseru na kisheria, na utajiri mkubwa wa asili aliotupa Mwenyezi Mungu. Kulalamika hakutatufikisha mbali, badala yake wageni na Watanzania wenzetu wachache watatumia fursa hizi, kisha tutawaonea wivu na kuwachukia bila sababu ya msingi.

Kazi kubwa iliyo mbele yetu ni kutumia vizuri eneo letu kijiografia, ni kuongeza usindikaji na uongezaji thamani wa mauzo yetu nje ya nchi, na kisha kudai kwa bidii zaidi fursa za kuuza katika nchi jirani na za mbali.

Serikali ya Awamu ya Tatu imeandaa Mpango Maalum wa Kuharakisha Maendeleo Tanzania (*Tanzania Mini-Tiger Plan 2020*), ambao ni sehemu ya Mkakati wa Kukuza Uchumi na Kupunguza Umaskini. Mpango huu unahusu uanzishaji maeneo maalum ya kuwekeza rasilimali na kuvutia vitega uchumi (*Special Economic Zones*) ili kukuza uchumi, kuongeza mauzo ya bidhaa ndani na nje ya nchi na kujibu hitaji kubwa la ajira nchini. Natarajia angalao eneo moja liwe tayari kabla sijaondoka madarakani.

Kote ninakoenda duniani, viongozi wote wa Serikali na Makampuni ya Kimataifa ninaokutana nao wanakiri kuwa Tanzania sasa iko tayari kupaa kiuchumi. Wakati umefika nasi Watanzania tujue hivyo, na kutambua kuwa wakati maji yanakaribia kuchemka si wakati wa kupunguza moto. Tusiwe waoga. Tujiamini, maana hiyo ni hulka yetu tuliyoirithi kutoka kwa Baba wa Taifa, Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere. Na kama alivyosema William Shakespeare, “Mashaka ni mhaini, ambaye kwa kutufanya tuogope kuthubutu anatumkosha mema.” Ndugu zangu tusikubali kukosa mema, tusiogope kuthubutu, na wakati ndio huu. Na kama Marehemu Mzee Jongo alivyokuwa akisema, “Kijua ndicho hichi, usipouanika utautwanga mbichi.”

VITA DHIDI YA UMASKINI NA HUDUMA ZA JAMII

Serikali ya Awamu ya Tatu iliweka upya msukumo katika mapambano dhidi ya umaskini. Tumebuni sera na mikakati ya kitaifa na kuhakikisha kwamba mapambano dhidi ya umaskini yanakuwa ndiyo lengo na agenda kuu ya

maendeleo ya taifa. Shughuli zote hizi, za kiseru na za maandalizi ya miradi na programu mbalimbali, zilifanywa kwa ushirikiano mkubwa na wadau na hivyo kuzifanya ziwe na umiliki mkubwa wa kitaifa.

Baada ya Mkakati wa Kupunguza Umaskini (PRS) wa mwaka 2000 kuandaliwa, Serikali kwa kushirikiana na wadau, iliandaa Mpango wa Ufuatiliaji wa Jitihada za Kupambana na Umaskini (*Poverty Monitoring Master Plan*) mwaka 2001. Lengo lilikuwa kupima mafanikio ya utekelezaji wa Mkakati wa Kupunguza Umaskini, kubaini mapungufu na kuchukua hatua zitakazosaidia kuondoa umaskini. Kupitia mfumo huu wa ufuatiliaji, uchambuzi wa tafiti mbalimbali umefanyika na kuonyesha kuwa idadi ya watu wanaoishi katika umaskini imepungua kutoka asilimia 38.6 ya mwaka 1991–1992 hadi asilimia 35.7 mwaka 2000–2001 na idadi ya wanaoishi katika umaskini uliokithiri imepungua kutoka asilimia 21.6 katika mwaka 1991–1992 hadi asilimia 18.7 katika mwaka 2000–2001.

Bajeti ya Serikali ni nyenzo muhimu katika juhudi za Serikali za kupambana na umaskini. Mafanikio yaliyopatikana katika kukuza uchumi, kuongeza mapato ya Serikali na msamaha wa madeni yalisaidia kuwezesha Serikali kuongeza sana kiasi cha fedha zinazotengwa katika sekta za kipaumbele ili kupiga vita umaskini. Kwa mfano kiasi cha bajeti ya matumizi ya kawaida kinachoenda kwenye sekta ya huduma za jamii kimeongezeka kutoka asilimia 4.6 ya Pato la Taifa mwaka 1999–2000 hadi asilimia 8.3 mwaka 2004–2005; na kiasi cha bajeti ya maendeleo kutoka asilimia 0.5 ya Pato la Taifa hadi asilimia 3.5 katika kipindi hicho.

Upatikanaji wa huduma ya maji vijijini ni moja ya vigezo muhimu katika mkakati wa kuondoa umaskini na kukuza uchumi hapa nchini. Hadi sasa, asilimia 53.47 ya wananchi waishio vijijini wanapata huduma ya maji safi na salama karibu na makazi yao ikilinganishwa na asilimia 42 tu mwaka 1995. Upatikanaji wa maji mijini nao umeongezeka kutoka asilimia 60 mwaka 1995 hadi asilimia 74 mwaka 2004.

Serikali ya Awamu ya Tatu ilianzisha Mabadiliko katika Sekta ya Afya kwa lengo la

kuboresha huduma zitolewazo na kuondoa kero kwa wananchi, hususan akina mama na watoto ambao ni watumiaji wakuu wa huduma za afya. Uelimishaji na uhamasishaji wa wananchi kuhusu mabadiliko katika Sekta ya Afya, kuunda vyombo vya uwakilishi wa wananchi, yaani Bodi ya Huduma za Afya na Kamati za vituo vya huduma, umeendelea. Hadi Mei, 2005 halmashauri 113 zilikwishahamasishwa kuunda Bodi. Hivi sasa Bodi za Huduma ya Afya 62 zimekwishaanza kazi baada ya kuchapishwa katika Gazeti la Serikali na kuzinduliwa rasmi.

Serikali pia imeendelea kuwahamasisha wananchi kuchangia huduma za afya hasa za matibabu. Uchangiaji huo ni kupitia katika mifuko mbalimbali ikiwemo Mfuko wa Afya ya Jamii (CHF), Mfuko wa Taifa wa Bima ya Afya (NHIF) na Mfuko wa Afya ya Jamii katika Sekta isiyo rasmi kwa Halmashauri za mijini (TIKA).

Ili kuhakikisha huduma za afya zinatolewa katika majengo na vifaa vyenye viwango vinavyokubalika, Serikali kwa kushirikiana na wahisani mbalimbali kama vile Benki ya Maendeleo ya Afrika, OPEC, BADEA, *Abbott Laboratories*, JICA na CDC imeendelea na ukarabati na uwekaji wa vifaa katika hospitali ya Taifa ya Muhimbili, pamoja na upanuzi wa majengo ya wodi za wazazi kwa hospitali zote za Manispaa za Dar es Salaam, na majengo kwa ajili ya huduma za uzazi kwa zahanati 32.

Ukarabati huu wa majengo na vifaa umeanza na unaendelea vile vile katika hospitali za Bugando, Mbeya, KCMC, Kibong'oto, Mirembe na Isanga, Taasisi za MOI na Ocean Road. Mpango huu utaendelezwa vile vile katika hospitali za mikoa na wilaya.

Serikali pia imeimarisha huduma za uhakiki na uchunguzi wa ubora wa dawa, vyakula, vipodozi na vifaa vya tiba kwa kujenga maabara mpya na ya kisasa ya Mamlaka ya Chakula na Dawa na kupitisha Sheria mpya ya Udhidhi wa Vyakula, Dawa na Vipodozi ya mwaka 2003 ambayo imewezesha kuongezeka kwa ufanisi wa udhibiti wa bidhaa hizo.

Serikali imeendelea kununua na kusambaza dawa na vifaa vya tiba kwa hospitali, vituo vya afya na zahanati zote za umma nchini. Bajeti ya

kununulia dawa na vifaa vya tiba imeongezeka kutoka wastani wa shilingi bilioni 10 kila mwaka ilipofika mwaka 2000 hadi wastani wa shilingi bilioni 30 kwa mwaka kufikia mwaka 2004, ikiwa ni ongezeko la asilimia 200. Ule uhaba wa dawa uliokuwepo miaka ya 1990 haupo tena.

Serikali imeendelea na juhudi za kusogeza huduma za afya karibu na wananchi ili kuwaondolea kero ya kuzifuata mbali na makazi yao. Hospitali zimeongezeka kutoka 194 hadi 220 na vituo vya afya kutoka 343 hadi 433 kati ya mwaka 1995 na 2004. Zahanati zimeongezeka kutoka 3,832 mwaka 1995, hadi 4,622 mwaka 2005.

Najua Waziri wa Afya amekwishaambia Bunge lako Tukufu kuhusu mafanikio kwenye sekta ya afya katika miaka 10 iliyopita. Napenda nirudie machache yanayonipa faraja sana:

1. Kumekuwa na kupungua kwa wazi kwa maradhi yanayozuilika;
2. Vifo vya watoto wachanga vimepungua kutoka 99.1 kati ya watoto hai 1,000 mwaka 1999 hadi 68 tu mwaka 2004;
3. Vifo vya watoto chini ya umri wa miaka 5 vimepungua kutoka watoto 146.6 kwa kila 1,000 hai mwaka 1999 hadi 112 mwaka jana;
4. Idadi ya watoto chini ya miaka 5 wapatao Vitamini A imeongezeka kutoka 1.5 milioni mwaka 1995 hadi 5.7 milioni mwaka jana; na
5. Tumeanza kutoa bure dawa za kurefusha maisha ya wenye UKIMWI ambapo ifikapo mwisho wa mwaka huu watu 44,000 watakuwa wamepewa dawa hizo. Na mwaka huu wa fedha tumetoa fedha zetu wenyewe sh. 20 bilioni kugharamia mpango huu.

Ningeweza kuendelea. Lakini sasa nitaje machache yanayonipa faraja pia kwenye sekta ya elimu katika kipindi cha 1995–2005:

1. Tumeweza kufuta ada kwenye shule za msingi na kupunguza kwa nusu ada za shule za sekondari;
2. Wanafunzi kwenye shule za msingi wameongezeka kwa asilimia 82, na kwenye shule za sekondari kwa asilimia 120 katika miaka 10 iliyopita;

3. Idadi ya shule za msingi imeongezeka kwa asilimia 26 na ile ya shule za sekondari kwa asilimia 117; na
4. Viwango vya kufaulu shule ya msingi vimeongezeka kutoka asilimia 14.6 hadi asilimia 49; na kwa shule za sekondari kutoka asilimia 24.6 hadi asilimia 38.8 kwa sekondari za kawaida na asilimia 70.7 hadi asilimia 80.7 kwenye sekondari za juu.

Mafanikio ya Elimu ya Juu katika kipindi cha 1995 hadi 2005 yanajitokeza kwenye maeneo yafuatayo:

1. Idadi ya wanafunzi katika Vyuo Vikuu vya Umma imeongezeka kutoka 7,785 mwaka 1995 hadi 32,681 mwaka 2004–2005; ongezeko hilo la wanafunzi 24,896 ni sawa na asilimia 319.8; na
2. Katika kipindi hicho hicho idadi ya wanafunzi wa kike imeongezeka kutoka 1,135 mwaka 1995 na kufikia 10,039 mwaka 2004–2005. Ongezeko hilo la wanafunzi 8,904 ni sawa na asilimia 784.5.

Ili kupanua udahili wa wanafunzi katika Vyuo vya Elimu ya Juu, Serikali imeanzisha Bodi ya Utoaji na Urejeshwaji wa Mikopo, ambayo imezinduliwa rasmi mwezi Machi, 2005. Bodi hii itasaidia kuongeza udahili, kwani, mikopo itatolewa kwa wanafunzi wa Vyuo vya Elimu ya Juu vya Umma na vile vya Binafsi.

Serikali pia imechukua hatua za makusudi kupunguza tofauti za mapato katika jamii, pamoja na kuondoa kero mbalimbali zilizokuwa zinawakabili wananchi kama ifuatavyo:

1. Kufuta ada zote katika shule za msingi ili kuwawezesha watoto wote wenye umri wa kwenda shule wanaandikishwa ikiwemo kupunguza ada katika shule za sekondari za kutwa za Serikali kutoka shilingi 40,000/= hadi shilingi 20,000/= kwa mwaka;
2. Kufuta kodi na ada mbalimbali zinazowaletea kero wananchi, ikiwemo iliyokuwa inaitwa kodi ya maendeleo;

3. Kutoa ruzuku kwa pembejeo za kilimo na mbolea;
4. Kufuta kodi za zana za kilimo zinazoagizwa nje ya nchi, kama matrekta, ili kupunguza gharama za uzalishaji na hivyo, kuongeza uzalishaji wa mazao;
5. Kutoa huduma bure ya tiba katika hospitali na vituo vya afya kwa wanawake wajawazito na watoto wenye umri wa chini ya miaka mitano; wazee; na wagonjwa wa ukoma, kifua kikuu, na UKIMWI;
6. Kurekebisha mishahara ya watumishi wake, ambapo Kima cha Chini cha Mishahara ya watumishi wa Serikali kimeongezwa kutoka shilingi 17,500/= kwa mwezi mwaka 1995 hadi shilingi 60,000/= kwa mwezi mwaka 2004;
7. Kuanzisha Mfuko wa Pembejeo za Kilimo, na kutoa ruzuku kwa wasafirishaji wa mbolea;
8. Kusamehe kodi ya Ongezeko la Thamani (VAT) kwa mazao ghafi ya kilimo na mifugo ikiwa ni pamoja na nyama isiyosindikwa, mazao ya mifugo ambayo hayajasindikwa, samaki zisizosindikwa, na mazao mengine yote ya kilimo ambayo hayajasindikwa;
9. Kusamehe Ushuru wa Stempu kwa mazao ya kilimo, mifugo na uvuvi. Aidha, ushuru wa stempu haukusanywi katika magulio, ambapo mazao haya huuzwa kwa wingi;
10. Kusamehe Ushuru wa Forodha kwa zana na pembejeo za kilimo kama vile matrekta, madawa ya kuua wadudu na mbolea; na
11. Kuongeza bajeti za huduma za jamii na miundo mbinu inayowanufaisha watu wa vipato vyote.

Nguvu ya mnyonge ni umoja. Na ushirika huru na wenye nguvu ndio nguvu ya wananchi wa kawaida, hususan wakulima na wafanyabiashara ndogo ndogo. Lakini ushirika wetu ulifika mahali ukakaribia kufa kabisa. Mwezi Machi 2000 niliitisha Kongamano la wadau wote wa Ushirika kujadiliana la kufanya. Baada ya hapo niliunda Kamati iliyoongozwa na Mheshimiwa Clement George Kahama, ambaye sasa ni Waziri wa Ushirika na Masoko.

Namshukuru Mheshimiwa Kahama na kamati yake kwa kazi nzuri iliyokuwa msingi wa juhudi za Serikali kufufua ushirika. Na tumepata mafanikio yafuatayo:

1. Tumeandaa Sera mpya ya Maendeleo ya Ushirika ya mwaka 2002;
2. Tumetunga Sheria mpya ya Ushirika ya mwaka 2003;
3. Tumeimarisha Taasisi za Serikali zinazohusika na maendeleo ya Ushirika, yaani COASCO, Idara ya Maendeleo ya Ushirika na Chuo cha Ushirika Moshi, ambacho sasa kimekuwa Chuo Kikuu Kishiriki cha Ushirika na Stadi za Biashara cha Chuo Kikuu cha Kilimo cha Sokoine;
4. Tumeviwezesha Vyama vya Ushirika kuwa na uwezo tena wa kufanya biashara na kushindana kwenye mfumo wa soko;
5. Tumetoa elimu ya ushirika ili wanachama wamiliki na kuviendesha vyama vyao;
6. Tumeboresha uongozi wa vyama kwa kuanza kutumia Maadili ya Uongozi wa Vyama vya Ushirika kwa mujibu wa sheria mpya ya ushirika; na
7. Tumehamasisha wananchi kuanzisha Vyama vya Msingi imara na kujiunga kwenye Vyama vya Ushirika. Mafanikio makubwa yameonekana kwenye Vyama vya Akiba na Mikopo ambavyo idadi yake imeongezeka kutoka 800 mwaka 2000 hadi kufikia 1,719 mwaka 2004, vyenye jumla ya wanachama 251,531 kati yao wakiwa wanawake 84,571 sawa na asilimia 34.

Mafanikio hayo yameanzisha upya ari ya ushirika na kuleta matumaini mapya. Na kama kauli mbiu ya Umoja wa Vyama vya Ushirika Duniani mwaka huu inayosema, *“Microfinance Is Our Business: Cooperating Out of Poverty,”* yaani Asasi ndogo ndogo za fedha ni kazi yetu, tushirikiane kushinda umaskini. Ni kweli kabisa kuwa asasi ndogo za fedha za kiushirika zina nafasi kubwa kukidhi mahitaji ya mitaji midogo midogo ya fedha kwa wananchi wenye vipato vya chini walioungana kiushirika. Vyama vya akiba na mikopo vimewawezesha wanachama wake

kutambuliwa kwa pamoja kama asasi za fedha, kuendesha biashara ya fedha (kuweka akiba na kukopa), kuwekeza mitaji katika biashara na uzalishaji, kuongeza mapato ya familia kujimudu katika maisha ya jamii na kupambana na umaskini. Manufaa ya vyama vya akiba na mikopo ni makubwa na yako bayana kwa wasio wanachama na wananchi kwa ujumla kuyaona.

ULINZI NA USALAMA

Ninafurahi kuwa falsafa yetu ya ulinzi—ya kuwa na jeshi dogo, lenye uwezo na nidhamu ya hali ya juu, mafunzo ya kutosha na zana za kisasa—imeendelea kudhihirisha usahihi wake.

Katika kipindi cha 1995 hadi 2005 Jeshi la Ulinzi la Wananchi wa Tanzania lilidhibiti ipasavyo ulinzi wa mipaka ya Tanzania. Kwa ujumla hali ya ulinzi na usalama wa nchi yetu, wananchi pamoja na mali zao ilikuwa shwari. Aidha, mafunzo muhimu ya kujenga Taifa kwa vijana wa Tanzania, yaliyokuwa yamesitishwa mwaka 1994 kutokana na uwezo mdogo wa Serikali kifedha, yalianza tena kutolewa katika kipindi hiki na yameendelea kutolewa katika baadhi ya makambi ya Jeshi la Kujenga Taifa kwa ufanisi mkubwa.

Katika kipindi cha 1995 hadi 2005 Wizara ya Ulinzi na Jeshi la Kujenga Taifa imetekeleza mpango kabambe wa kuimarisha na kuboresha Jeshi la Ulinzi la Wananchi wa Tanzania na Jeshi la Kujenga Taifa kama ilivyofanuliwa kwenye Ilani za Uchaguzi Mkuu za mwaka 1995 na 2000.

1. Jeshi la Ulinzi limepatiwa zana bora kwa ajili ya kuimarisha ulinzi wa mipaka ya nchi;
2. Mafunzo na mazoezi kwa wanajeshi yamefanyika na kuimarishwa;
3. Upatikanaji wa huduma za msingi kwa wanajeshi na vijana umeimarishwa;
4. Huduma ya nyumba za kuishi wanajeshi katika makambi zimepanuliwa;
5. Maeneo ya Jeshi yamepimwa;
6. Uwezo wa Jeshi la Ulinzi kutoa misaada kwa mamlaka za kiraia wakati wa dharura umeimarishwa, na unazidi kuimarishwa;

7. Mafunzo ya ulinzi wa umma (mgambo), yameimarishwa;
8. Uwezo wa Utafiti na Teknolojia ya Kijeshi umeendelea kujengwa;
9. Ushirikiano wa Kijeshi na nchi mbalimbali duniani, hasa ushirikiano wa kikanda, umeendelezwa;
10. Jeshi letu limeshiriki katika jukumu la kimataifa la kulinda amani katika nchi zenye migogoro; na
11. Udhibiti wa matumizi ya fedha umeimarishwa.

Tumejitahidi katika miaka 10 iliyopita kuboresha mazingira ya kufanyia kazi wapiganaji wetu. Uwezo bado unataka kuongezewa nguvu, lakini maafisa na wapiganaji hawana shaka ya nia, ari, mipango na maandalizi ya lengo hili.

Nawashukuru kwa utulivu wao, uvumilivu wao na uelewa wao. Na ninawashukuru kwa mchango wao mkubwa wakati wa maafa na majanga ya kitaifa na pia shughuli za ujenzi wa taifa kwa kushiriki miradi ya kiraia, kama vile ya ujenzi wa vivuko, madaraja na nyumba.

Jeshi la Polisi nalo limeimarishwa kwa kupatiwa vifaa na mitambo ya kisasa ya kufanyia kazi ikiwemo vifaa vya kisasa kabisa vya mawasiliano, maabara za kisasa za uchunguzi wa vielelezo na magari.

Mafunzo mbalimbali yamefanyika kwa askari polisi kwa ajili ya kuongeza taaluma mbalimbali, na nyumba mpya 7,585 zimejengwa katika maeneo mbalimbali nchini kwa ajili ya askari polisi na zingine zimekarabatiwa.

Ili kukabiliana na msongamano wa wafungwa magereza mapya yamejengwa katika Wilaya ambazo hazina magereza, kwa kuanzia na Wilaya za Igunga, Mbarali na Mbinga.

Aidha, pamefanyika ukarabati mkubwa kwenye magereza yenye ulinzi mkali 9 na ukarabati mdogo mdogo kwenye magereza yote nchini ili yawe salama kwa ajili ya kuhifadhi wahalifu. Sheria ya Bodi ya Parole ya mwaka 1994, iliyoifanyiwa marekebisho mwaka 2002, imewezesha msamaha wa Parole kutolewa kwa wafungwa 1,116. Serikali imeanzisha pia mwaka 2002 Sheria ya Huduma za Jamii (*Community*

Service Act, 2002) kwa lengo la kuwapa wahalifu wa makosa yasiyo ya hatari kwa usalama wa jamii na ambao wana hukumu ya kifungo kisichozidi miaka mitatu, fursa ya kutumikia adhabu zao nje ya magereza wakifanya kazi za jamii.

Jeshi la Magereza nalo limeimarishwa kwa kupatiwa magari zaidi na vifaa vya kisasa vya mawasiliano na kompyuta.

Jumla ya watumishi 5,719 wa Jeshi la Magereza walipatiwa mafunzo mbalimbali. Aidha, askari 4,036 waliajiriwa na wengine 8,532 walipandishwa vyeo.

Nyumba mpya 176 zilijengwa na nyingine zilikarabatiwa kote nchini.

Napenda nitumie fursa hii kutoa shukrani na pongezi zangu za pekee kwa Wakuu wote niliofanya nao kazi wa Jeshi la Ulinzi la Wananchi wa Tanzania, Jeshi la Polisi, Idara ya Usalama wa Taifa na Magereza, makamanda wao, maafisa na askari wote, kwa kazi kubwa, utii, uaminifu, uhodari na uwezo mkubwa waliouonyesha. Wapo miongoni mwao waliokufa au kuumia katika kutimiza wajibu wao. Hatuwezi kuwasahau. Wengine wamejitoe kwa ujasiri mkubwa kuepusha hatari kwa usalama wa nchi na raia, kuzima moto, kukabili majambazi, na kuokoa raia kwenye majanga na ajali mbalimbali. Wote nawashukuru na kuwapongeza sana.

MAMBO YA NJE NA USHIRIKIANO WA KIMATAIFA

Katika miaka 10 ya Serikali ya Awamu ya Tatu tumeendeleza sera yetu ya ujirani mwema. Matokeo yake mipaka yetu imekuwa salama, na hakuna aliyejaribu kutuchokoza. Na la muhimu, tumeshughulikia matatizo ya usalama na amani ya nchi jirani, lakini sisi hatukuwa chanzo cha wakimbizi kwa wenzetu. Ni kweli wapo Watanzania waliokimbilia Shimoni kule Mombasa mwaka 2001, lakini hilo ni tukio la kipekee, ambalo si la kawaida kwa nchi yetu.

Hatujisifu, lakini ni ukweli, na dunia inakiri nafasi muhimu ya Tanzania katika suala la amani, usalama na maendeleo katika Eneo la Maziwa Makuu, na hata Afrika. Tulikuwa wenyeji wa Mkutano wa Wakuu wa Nchi za Eneo la Maziwa

Makuu mwaka jana ambao tunaamini ni mwanzo wa kuleta amani ya kudumu na ushirikiano wa kimaendeleo kwenye eneo hili. Tumefanikiwa kuwarejesha makwao wakimbizi kutoka Rwanda na Burundi, na kusaidia sana juhudi za amani na suluhisho la kisiasa kwa matatizo ya nchi hizo.

Aidha, tumeshiriki kikamilifu juhudi za kuanzisha na kuainisha ushirikiano wa kanda kupitia Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki na Jumuiya ya Maendeleo ya Nchi za Kusini mwa Afrika.

Tumerejesha na kuimarisha uhusiano na mataifa yanayotuhusu na mashirika ya fedha ya kimataifa. Hii imetuwezesha kuongezewa misaada, kusamehewa kiasi fulani cha madeni yetu nje ya nchi, na kuaminiwa kukopeshwa kwa masharti nafuu. Isitoshe Tanzania imetoa mchango mkubwa kimataifa kwa kuwa mfano wa usimamizi na matumizi bora ya misaada na kujenga mahusiano mazuri na wahisani.

Ipo hadithi ya bwana mmoja aliyeoa kwenye familia yenye uwezo wa fedha. Akaona hana haja ya kufanya kazi. Siku moja mkewe akahamaki, “Ninaona aibu tunavyoishi. Baba yangu ndiye analipa kodi ya pango. Mama yangu ananunua chakula chetu. Dada yangu ndiye anatumunulia nguo. Shangazi yangu ametununulia gari. Nawe hata kazi hutaki. Naona fedheha sana!” Mumewe akajinyoosha pale kwenye kochi alikuwa amepumzika, akasema, “Ni kweli unastahili kuona aibu, maana wale kaka zako wawili hawana maana kabisa. Hawatupi hata senti moja!”

Hatutaki kamwe nchi yetu iwe kama baradhuli huyo. Ongezeko la mikopo na misaada halijaongeza utegemezi wetu kwa wahisani. Kwa kweli tumepunguza kidogo utegemezi huo. Kwamba bado tunategemea wahisani kwa zaidi ya asilimia 40 ya bajeti ya Serikali si kielelezo cha kupenda utegemezi, ni kielelezo tu cha umaskini ambao mageuzi ya uchumi na ukuaji wake ndiyo dawa pekee. Na hatujalemaa.

Ongezeko la mahusiano na wahisani halijapunguza ari yetu ya kudai na kuhimiza kutendewa haki katika uwanja wa kimataifa, na mahusiano ya kiuchumi na kibiashara duniani. Ushiriki wangu kwenye Tume ya Kimataifa Kuhusu Masuala ya Kijamii Kwenye Utandawazi, na pia Tume ya Afrika, pamoja na ripoti za Tume

hizo, ni kielelezo tosha cha dhamira yetu hiyo.

Mojawapo ya mapendekezo ya Tume ya Afrika ni kuanzisha Mfuko wa Kuboresha Mazingira ya Uwekezaji Barani Afrika (*Investment Climate Facility for Africa*). Pengine nitumie fursa hii kutoa taarifa kuwa nimeombwa sana, kuwa mara baada ya kustaafu Urais niwe Mwenyekiti-Mwenza wa Mfuko huo, nafasi itakayonipa fursa kusukuma utekelezaji wa mapendekezo ya Tume ya Afrika kuhusu uwekezaji barani Afrika.

HITIMISHO

Hotuba imekuwa ndefu mno, kama ambavyo uongozi wa nchi, hasa nchi maskini, kwa miaka 10 ni safari ndefu mno. Watu wengi wamefanya kazi nami na kunisaidia sana katika safari hiyo. Nilifanya kazi vizuri sana na aliyekuwa Makamu wa Rais, Mhe. Dkt. Omar Ali Juma, na ningependa tuzidi kumwomba Mwenyezi Mungu aiweke roho yake mali pema peponi.

Ninamshukuru sana Makamu wa Rais, Mhe. Dkt. Mohamed Ali Shein. Busara zake, utulivu wake, umakini wake, utu wake na upendo wake kwa Watanzania wenzake vimekuwa hazina kubwa kwenye uongozi wangu.

Ninamshukuru sana Rais wa Serikali ya Mapinduzi Zanzibar aliyepita, Mheshimiwa Dkt. Salmin Amour na huyu wa sasa, Mhe. Amani Abeid Karume, kwa ushirikiano mkubwa wakati wote.

Nilijitahidi kuunda Serikali ya waadilifu, wanaojituma, nikawaita “Askari wa Mwavuli.” Karibu wote hawakuniangusha na mengi ya mafanikio niliyoyataja hapa yanatokana na mchango wao mkubwa. Nawashukuru sana, nikianzia na Waziri Mkuu, Mhe. Frederick T. Sumaye, Mb., ambaye amenisaidia sana katika miaka 10 ya uongozi wangu. Najua ameamua kustaafu siasa, kwa maana ya Ubunge. Lakini yeye bado ni kijana, ana nguvu, na nina uhakika ataendelea kutumikia Wana-CCM na wananchi katika shughuli mbalimbali.

Nawashukuru Mawaziri wote, Naibu Mawaziri wote, Makatibu Wakuu na watumishi wote wa Umma. Natamani ningeorodhesha mafanikio waliyonisaidia kuyaleta sekta kwa sekta,

wizara kwa wizara. Lakini muda hautoshi, na mengine mengi mazuri nimeshindwa kuyataja. Wataniwia radhi; lakini wote naomba wajue ninatambua mchango wao na ninawashukuru sana. Ninawatakia kheri Mawaziri na Naibu Mawaziri ili wengi wao wachaguliwe tena katika Ubunge. Maana uelewa wao na uzoefu wao ni mkubwa, haufai kupotezwa, na mahusiano waliyoyajenga ndani ya Serikali, ndani ya jamii, na kimataifa ni muhimu kwa maendeleo ya taifa letu.

Ninawashukuru sana Wakuu wa Mikoa na Wilaya. Wamefanya kazi kubwa, wakati mwingine katika mazingira magumu. Nawashukuru sana.

Ninazo shukrani za pekee kwa washirika wetu katika maendeleo, hususan nchi ambazo ni wahisani wetu na mashirika ya fedha ya kikanda na kimataifa. Nilipoanza kuongoza nchi yetu, mahusiano nao hayakuwa mazuri sana. Lakini waliniamini, tukafanya kazi pamoja, wakaniunga mkono, na mafanikio mengi tuliyoyapata katika miaka hii kumi yamewezeshwa na wao kutuunga mkono. Orodha yao ni ndefu, na hotuba hii imekwishachukua muda mrefu, hivyo wataniwia radhi sitaweza kuwataja wote. Naomba tu wote wajue na wote wajisikie kuwa nimewashukuru sana, na kuwa ninawaomba waendeleo kushirikiana na Serikali ijayo, hasa katika kutusaidia kujenga uwezo wa kupunguza, siku hadi siku, utegemezi wetu kwao.

Nawashukuru sana viongozi wa dini zote kwa dua zao kwangu, kwa Serikali na kwa nchi yetu. Nawashukuru kwa mchango wao mkubwa kwenye ujenzi na uendeshaji wa huduma za kijamii. Nawashukuru kwa kupigania mfumo wa utandawazi wa haki zaidi, na kwa shinikizo lao kwamba nchi kama zetu zisamehewe madeni ya nje. Wametusaidia sana. Lakini kazi bado ipo. Nawaomba waendeleo kuunga mkono na kufanya kazi vizuri na Serikali ijayo.

Daima ninawashukuru na nitazidi kuwashukuru Watanzania walioniamini na kunipa heshima hii kubwa sana ya kuwaongoza katika muda wa karibu miaka 10 sasa. Mwaka 1995 walinichagua kwa asilimia 61.8 ya kura halali. Mwaka 2000 waliongeza imani yao kwangu na

kunipa asilimia 71.7 ya kura halali. Na kama vile hii haitoshi, walionyesha upendo mkubwa sana pote nilipoenda, na wakati ninaumwa waliniombea kwa Mwenyezi Mungu na kuniletea salamu nyingi sana za pole. Nawashukuru pia kwa ushirikiano wao kwenye shughuli za maendeleo na kwa kunisikiliza na kuniamini. Nawashukuru sana.

Nawashukuru Marais walionitangulia: Baba wa Taifa, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere na Mzee Ali Hassan Mwinyi. Niliwapenda na kuwaheshimu sana, na nitaendelea kufanya hivyo maisha yangu yote. Wameweka misingi ya taifa huru, linalojiheshimu na kuheshimiwa, na linalojiamini. Niliyoyafanya katika miaka 10 iliyopita yamejengwa juu ya misingi imara waliyoiweka na kuniachia. Na ningependa kuamini kuwa na mimi nimeongezea pale walipoachia, na ninamwachia Rais ajaye mahali pazuri pa kuendelea mbele.

Na yote hayo yanawezekana iwapo tutaongeza nidhamu ya kazi, uadilifu na uwajibikaji kwa wananchi, uwazi na ukweli, na moyo wa kujituma, kujiamini, kujitegemea na kujiendeleza.

Katika utawala wa kidemokrasia, haki ya kutawala inatokana na ridhaa ya wananchi. Ukishapata haki ya kutawala unaweza kutawala au, kama nipendavyo mimi, unaweza kuongoza. Ukitawala, unashurutisha. Ukiongoza, unashawishi. Si lazima uwe mwanademokrasia ndipo utawale. Hata wakoloni na madikteta walitawala. Lakini kuongoza ni kuonyesha njia, ni kuwa mfano bora, ni kuwafanya wananchi waridhike kukuona uko mbele na wao wanafuata. Wanakufuata si kwa vile wanakuogopa, bali kwa sababu wanakuamini. Na imani ya kweli haipatikani kwa kauli tu, bali hasa kwa vitendo vyako, kwa mwelekeo wako, na kwa kuwajali wananchi. Maana, kama alivyosema kiongozi mmoja wa dini, “Ukomavu wa uongozi huja pale unapohisi kuwa unawajali wananchi kuliko unavyojijali wewe mwenyewe.”

Ninaamini kwa dhati, kuwa wananchi wanapaswa kuongozwa, si kutawaliwa. Naamini kuwa ni haki ya msingi ya wananchi kujiridhisha na sera na mwelekeo wa Serikali. Ninaamini kuwa haki hiyo haipatikani kama Serikali haiwajibiki kwa wananchi, kwa kutoa maelezo ya

kutosha kwao juu ya kinachofanywa na Serikali kwa niaba ya wananchi, kwa fedha za wananchi, na kwa jina la wananchi.

Bunge lijalo na Serikali ijayo wana kazi kubwa kutimiza matarajio ya wananchi. Ninawatakia kila la kheri. Ipo methali isemayo “Ukitaka kumjua mtu alivyo, mpe madaraka.” Karibu nitamaliza kipindi changu cha madaraka. Wananchi wananijua. Matumaini yangu ni kuwa wale ambao wananchi watawaweka madarakani baadaye mwaka huu watajulikana kwa wema, busara, kujali wananchi, kuchukia umaskini na dhuluma, kujituma na uadilifu.

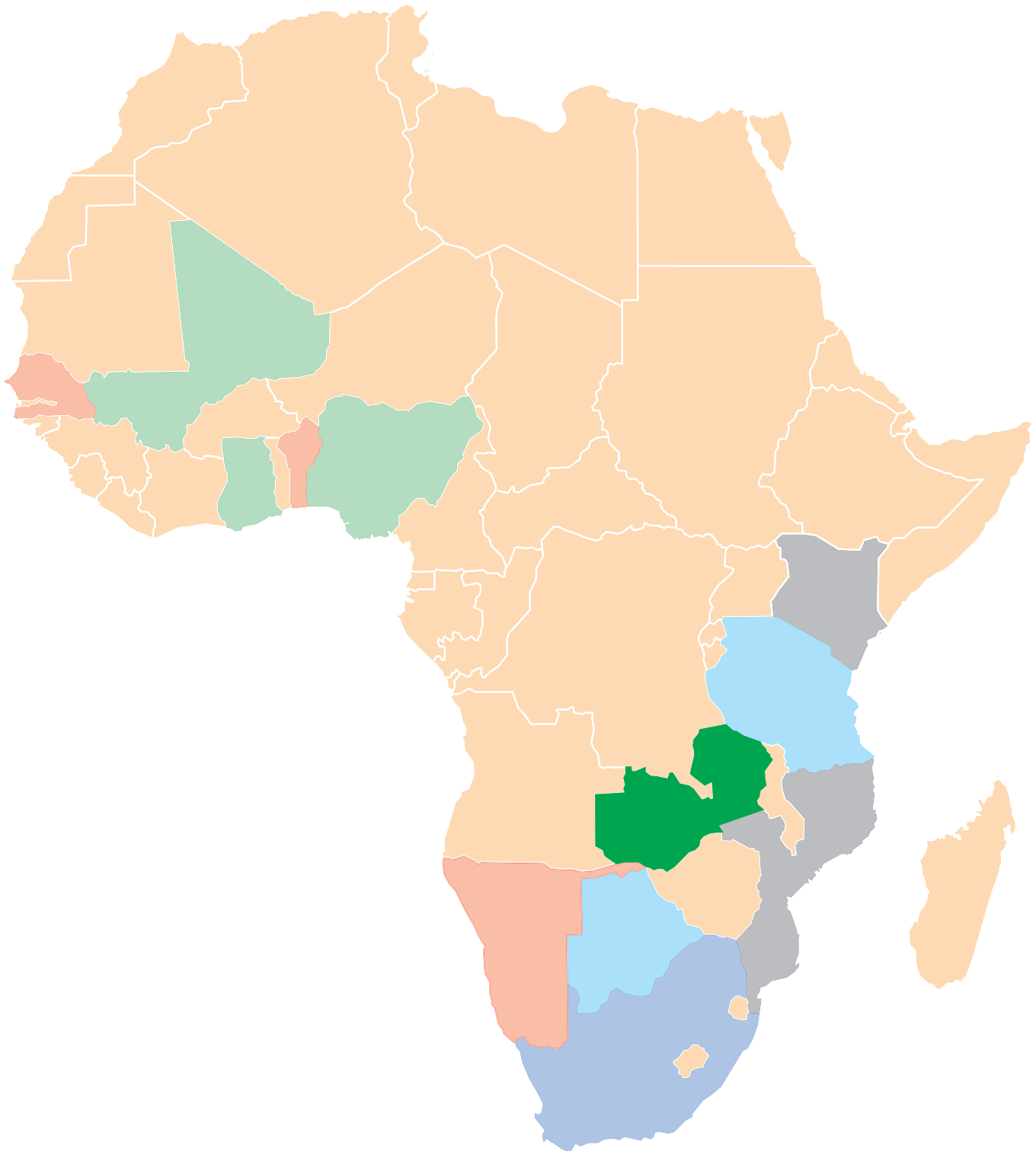
Nimejitahidi kwa uwezo wangu wote kuongoza nchi yetu kwa uadilifu, kwa bidii, kwa ushupavu, kwa haki, kwa amani, na kwa lengo la kuijengea nchi yetu heshima jirani na kimataifa, na kuiandaa tayari kwa uchumi unaopaa, utakaoshinda vita dhidi ya umaskini. Nawashukuru wote walioniombea kwa Mwenyezi Mungu aliyenijalia uwezo wa nguvu na akili kukamilisha niliyoweza kuyafanya. Niko tayari kuhitimisha ngwe ya Awamu ya Tatu. Wakati sasa unakaribia wa kukabidhi kijiti kwa mkimbiaji mwingine.

Nitaondoka kwa furaha nikiamini Rais wetu ajaye hatapunguza kasi, bali ataendeleza yaliyo mema kwa nguvu mpya, kasi mpya na ari mpya.

Narudia tena shukrani zangu kwako Mheshimiwa Spika na Waheshimiwa Wabunge kwa ushirikiano wenu mkubwa. Ninakutakieni nyote kila la kheri. Sasa ninalivunja rasmi Bunge kwa mujibu wa Katiba ya Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania na taratibu zilizowekwa.

Ahsanteni sana kwa kunisikiliza.

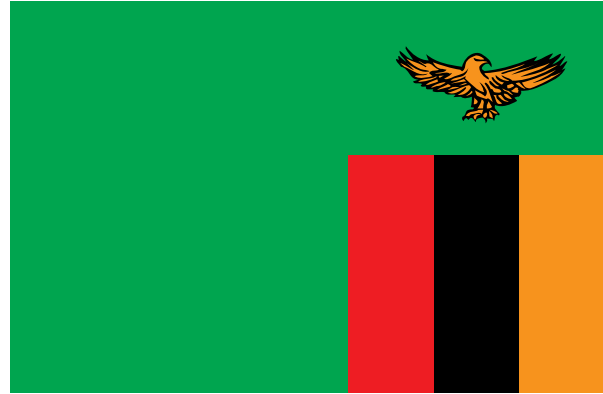
ZAMBIA



ZAMBIA



***Progress Towards Socioeconomic
Development and Good Governance
in Zambia, Address by His Excellency
Levy P. Mwanawasa, SC, President
of the Republic of Zambia,
at Harvard University
20 September 2005
Cambridge, Massachusetts***



It gives me great honour and pleasure to take this opportunity to address this distinguished audience of academics and professionals from different fields at Harvard University, because it is not so often that we get such opportunities. I have decided to entitle my address to you as 'Progress Towards Socioeconomic Development and Good Governance in Zambia'.

It is my hope that by the time I finish delivering my address, you will have appreciated the efforts that my government is making in improving the welfare of our people in Zambia and in advancing the cause of good governance in the management of public affairs. My hope is that from this address you will identify with us in the efforts and challenges that we face and hence become our advocates in galvanizing international support in improving the welfare of our people and in making our country a worthy member of the international community.

Zambia is a country of 752,000 square kilometres located in the southern part of the African continent. It is surrounded by eight countries and has a population of approximately 10 million people. Like many other countries in Africa, Zambia was a colony of Britain and only got her independence on 24 October 1964, almost forty-one years ago.

At the time of independence, the Zambian economy was mainly driven by the mining sector, which accounted for well over 80 percent of national export earnings. In order to diversify the economy, the post-independence government embarked on a number of initiatives to try and realign the economy so as to avoid external shocks, particularly with regard to fluctuating metal prices on the international market.

Despite the numerous efforts to [diversify], the results have not been encouraging in all aspects. For example, between 1980 and 1990, Zambia's economic growth rate was the second lowest in the SADC [South African Development Community] region after Mozambique. Between 1990 and 1999, we recorded the lowest average growth rate in the SADC region at 1 percent, below the sub-Saharan Africa rate of 2.4 percent. Our per capita GNP [gross national product] has been sliding over the years since independence. As a result, our national savings were rather too low to trigger investment levels that could effectively promote sustainable economic growth and employment creation. This has created the need for foreign direct investment into the various sectors of the economy. Despite numerous efforts to liberalize the economy over the past years, however, foreign direct investment has not been forthcoming to acceptable levels that could stimulate rapid economic growth. According to the *Africa Competitiveness Report of 2000*, Zambia ranks the highest in terms of openness to trade, but we have yet to see [this] translate into the social [and] economic well-being of our people.

When our party took office in the year 1991, our country was facing serious economic challenges. The economy was not growing; poverty levels were rising; our social infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals, was in very bad shape. Our image as a country in the international community had suffered terribly, as we had been branded [with] many other African countries the 'Shackled Continent'. The debt burden was rising, and no solution was in sight, giving a sense of hopelessness. We were stuck with the huge debt burden, which contributed tremendously to our poor economic performance.

Coupled with ineffective economic management characterized by heavy government borrowing, our economy shrank further, with the basic necessities of life hardly available. It is against this background that the first government in the multi-party era took office under MMD [Movement for Multiparty Democracy] leadership in 1991. In the first ten years, a lot was done to reverse the trend, and numerous scores were recorded. However, it cannot be said that all was well.

PROGRESS IN SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our New Deal government took office in January 2002 and immediately embarked on the daunting task of rebuilding our economy and bringing order to the way we manage our public resources. For instance, we waged a war against corruption, and we also embarked on work to improve the welfare of our people, especially in ensuring that there is household food security, and I am proud to say that we have scored numerous successes. This is not to say we have solved all the problems that the Zambian people have. No. There is still poverty; there is still hardship amongst our people; there is still unemployment. There are still many lives in Zambia that have not been touched by the changes that our administration has brought about. Despite all these, we are making progress, and there is hope for a better future for ourselves and for our children.

During the past three years, the Zambian economy has posted favourable trends in most of its macroeconomic indicators. Inflation, which averaged 26.29 percent in 2002, has taken a downward trend, declining to 17.2 percent in December 2004. The exchange rate has experienced relative stability against most major foreign currencies. It has persistently stood at ZMK 4,750 to a dollar during much of this period. Positive strides have also been made with regard to the cost of borrowing, with commercial bank lending rates declining to 28 percent in March 2005 from 49.5 percent in January 2002, when we took office. Further, the country's balance-of-payments position has greatly improved during this period, and the economy has persistently grown, registering 5 percent average GDP [gross domestic product] per annum.

How have we managed to achieve these results? Our government's economic policies and strategies are aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals of significantly reducing extreme poverty, with particular emphasis on such areas as universal primary education, gender equality, health, HIV/AIDS, and environment sustainability.

The overall macroeconomic goals in our strategies are:

- to attain a high and sustainable growth rate in the gross domestic product or GDP;
- to lower and stabilize inflation;
- to achieve a sustainable external sector position; and
- to translate the practical benefits of economic growth to all our people.

As a result of these economic management initiatives, our economy is showing promise in terms of growth. In 2002, the economy grew by 3.3 percent in real GDP, emanating mainly from mining, manufacturing, construction, and tourism activities. During 2003 and 2004, the economy grew by 5.1 percent and 5 percent, respectively. Consistent with these growth rates was improvement in real GDP per capita by 2.7 percent and 4.7 percent in 2003 and 2004, respectively. This is higher than the per capita GDP growth recorded in 2002 at the rate of 0.9 percent. As we all know, a higher GDP per capita coupled with appropriate redistributive policies are key in the fight against poverty, which is a priority in our economic policies.

We have succeeded in stabilizing our exchange rate, mainly as a result of improvements in metal and nontraditional exports coupled with [greater] donor support as a result of our efforts in improving our record in economic management and good governance. We have reduced commercial bank interest rates by limiting government borrowing so as to allow resources to flow to the productive sectors of the economy. This has to a large extent eliminated the 'crowding-out' effect, making it possible for our private sector to access [the] resources required for increased productivity.

Latest statistics from the central statistical office indicate that poverty levels have dropped from 72.9 percent in 1998 to 67 percent at the beginning of 2005. In 2004, the education sector recorded positive developments, with enrolments at basic, high school, and tertiary levels increasing. During the same period, there were notable

improvements in the health sector. There were improvements in the malaria incidence rates, with deaths declining from eight thousand in 2003 to five thousand in 2004. The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate has dropped to 16 percent in December 2004 from 26 percent at the end of the year in 2001 due to government's increased antiretroviral therapy (ART) activities. These activities have led to an increase in the provision of ART to fifteen thousand people by October 2004, from four thousand persons in 2003. We have also stepped up our HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns in all communities around the country so as to reduce prevalence rates even further.

These indicators do show that indeed Zambia is on the way to achieving greater results in the improvement of the welfare of our people. Our food security position has greatly improved, as it moved from an overall deficit of 635,000 metric tonnes in 2003 to overall food surplus of 400,000 metric tonnes in 2004. We have raised output by 92.5 percent over this period. The 2005 season has, however, recorded a decline of close to 190,000 metric tonnes, due mainly to a partial drought in parts of the country.

I am proud to say that our international cooperating partners conclusively endorsed our socioeconomic programmes in April 2005 when Zambia successfully reached the HIPC [Highly Indebted Poor Countries] completion point leading to substantial debt write-offs.

Although good governance may mean many things to many people, we believe that, as defined by the UNDP [United Nations Development Programme], good governance is the exercise of political, economic, and administrative authority to manage the affairs of a nation. It is the complex mechanisms, processes, relationships, and institutions through which individual citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their rights and obligations, and mediate their differences. Good governance, therefore, is a process whereby public resources and problems are managed effectively, efficiently, and in response to critical needs of society. In a democratic system of governance, public participation in decision-making processes, accountability, and transparency

are key components which must be cherished, upheld, and defended at all times.

In the absence of good governance, all the achievements we have recorded in the socio-economic sectors of our society cannot be sustainable. It is for this reason that my government, soon after getting into office in 2002, embarked on a relentless fight against corruption. The fight has no doubt yielded a lot of fruits for the Zambian society. As a result, we have recovered numerous public resources and assets that had been fraudulently taken away by those that were in power. The number of prosecutions that we have commenced in the courts of law has also acted as a strong deterrent and a strong warning to those in public office against abusing their positions for the purpose of furthering their personal appetites for wealth at the expense of the people.

In our pursuit of good governance, we have continued to uphold the rule of law and observance of human rights and democratic principles. We have embarked on a law reform programme in which we have succeeded in reviewing and producing numerous pieces of legislation aimed at creating a conducive environment for social and economic development. Our constitutional and electoral review processes have succeeded and are currently under public debate among the Zambian people. These initiatives are aimed at achieving maximum participation and consensus among the Zambian people as to what laws must govern them in the conduct of national affairs. Our parliamentary reform programme, aimed at achieving an all-inclusive and transparent democratic decision-making process, is on course and succeeding. Today Zambians from all walks of life can have easy access to the National Assembly and listen to the debates that affect their welfare and well-being as citizens.

THE CHALLENGES WE FACE

Although we have achieved numerous successes in improving the welfare of our people and in ensuring a transparent and accountable government, we still have numerous challenges that we have to tackle in order to achieve our vision for Zambia.

In the economic arena, Zambia faces challenges in the following areas:

1. the need to ensure empowerment of Zambians in business through ownership, joint venture partnerships, use of local skills, and professional competencies, as well as through business opportunities;
2. the need to develop micro and small enterprises through which our women and youth can get empowered economically;
3. the need to promote industrial development in our rural areas, with full participation of the people that will be affected by policies that we put forward;
4. the need to promote value-addition linkages in the production, processing, and marketing of our natural and mining products;
5. the need to introduce effective incentives that will attract and ensure the flow of foreign direct investment into the priority areas of our economy (these being agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, and mining), while collecting sufficient government revenue to provide the necessary social services;
6. the need to develop innovative financing mechanisms that will ensure availability of affordable investment finance for Zambian businesses;
7. the need to take advantage of our comparative advantage through the utilization of local materials to boost national industrial productivity;
8. the need to ensure national consensus in our efforts to develop an industrialization strategy through consistent dialogue with all stakeholders at every level of our society;
9. the need for development of infrastructure, especially the construction of major roads and feeder roads that would open up vast areas for development in rural districts; and
10. the need to embark on aggressive promotion initiatives that will attract much-needed investment to our country.

I am pleased to say that our government is currently working on the fifth National Development Plan, which intends to address all the above challenges. The fifth National Development Plan will come up with a long-term vision for Zambia for the next twenty-five years, which will be protected by legal instruments to ensure stability and consistency in the implementation of economic programs.

In the area of good governance, Zambia still faces the following challenges:

1. the need to build a united nation, in vision and purpose, where all Zambians within their natural and social diversity can contribute positively and fully to the well-being of our nation and the way our nation is governed;
2. the need to build an equitable nation where the wealth of the nation shall be fairly distributed, taking cognizance of [the] special needs of women, children, and the disabled; accelerating the restructuring of the Zambian society to correct rural-urban economic imbalances and eliminate artificial social inequalities; and
3. the need for a renewed system of government [brought about by] promoting accountability, eliminating wasteful spending, strengthening institutions of government, promoting efficiency, and ensuring that government serves the interests of the public.

The above challenges will no doubt entrench good governance as the foundation for the future of our country. We have learnt from our own past mistakes over the years since independence. Our challenge now as a nation is to emerge anew, [shedding] our old selves and building a stable future for posterity.

THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

In order for us to achieve the goals set for ourselves, there is clearly a need for our country to forge strong partnerships with the international community. I must mention here that all the achievements that we have recorded so far could not have been possible without the support and encouragement of friendly nations and international organizations that have supported our development efforts on both the socioeconomic and governance fronts. I wish, in this regard, to pay tribute to all our friends who have supported our efforts and to pay special tribute to the G8 [Group of Eight] countries [United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada] for their recent decision to forgive debt for Zambia. It is my hope that mechanisms will be put in place quickly in order to implement the G8 decision for 100 percent debt cancellation.

We intend to apply the savings from debt cancellation to our areas of need, including investment in economic infrastructure in addition to expenditure on health and education.

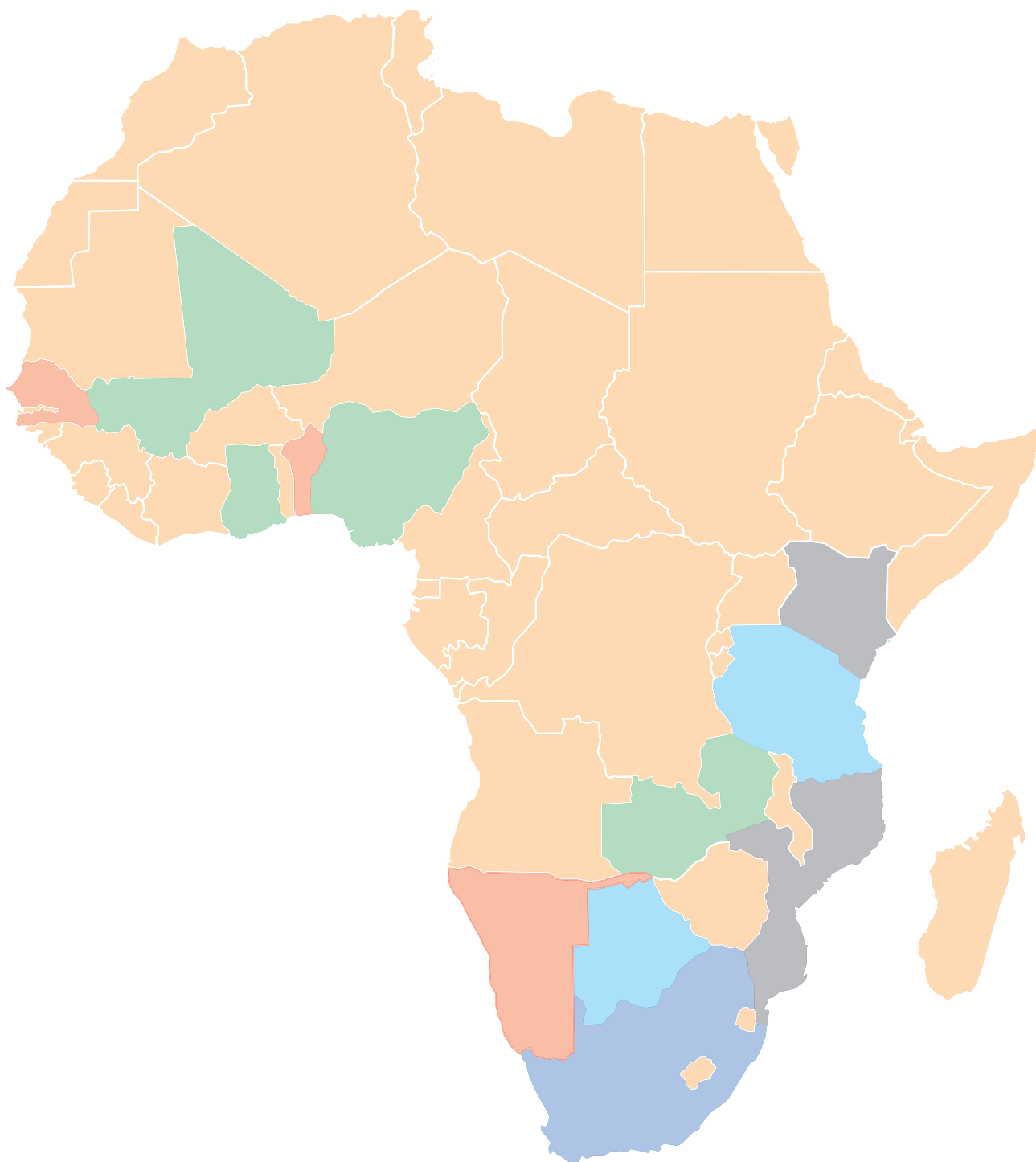
We in Zambia are very optimistic about our future. I wish to assure you that Zambia is ripe and open for investment. Zambia promises good returns for investment, especially in our key economic sectors.

It is my hope, therefore, that all of you here today will carry our message to the rest of the international community that we are ready to partner with you in our development efforts. We are ready to be your reliable friends and partners so that our people's welfare can be improved and at the same time you may get returns worthy of your investment. As a people, we are warm, open, friendly, and welcoming. You can bank on us.

Thank you.



The African Presidential Archives and Research Center thanks the Carnegie Corporation of New York for funding, in part, the *African Leaders State of Africa Report 2005*.





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MSD in South Africa: A Proud Tradition of Innovation

MSD (Pty) Ltd. is recognized as one of the top five research and development-based companies in South Africa. A subsidiary of the American research and development (R&D) pharmaceutical company Merck & Co., Inc., the company discovers, develops, and markets a broad range of novel medicines in more than twenty therapeutic areas designed to save lives and enhance patients' quality of life. The company's philosophy is to promote the value of innovative medicines and to defend the position of the R&D industry, whilst engaging all stakeholders in a constructive manner.

The pharmaceutical industry is a key role player in the R&D of novel medicines and an integral part of the South African economy. Keeping in mind that new life-saving medicines are brought to the market almost exclusively from R&D pharmaceutical companies, it is undisputed that the industry's contributions benefit South Africa. These benefits have a spill-over effect on the rest of the developing world.

Investment in South Africa

MSD, a leading global R&D pharmaceutical company, is in investment mode, and in so doing supports the development of the future leaders of science and medicine in South Africa. Annually, the company invests more than R40 million in clinical R&D, including an extensive HIV-vaccine programme, and R2.5 million in basic natural-products research in conjunction with key academic institutions. MSD's R&D is on par with the best in the world, and areas of focus include an HIV vaccine, an HIV integrase inhibitor, diabetes, high cholesterol, and COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), to name a few. MSD increased the scale of its operations in South Africa to include the recently upgraded world-class manufacturing plant in Midrand, and it exports medicines beyond its borders to neighbouring countries in the SADC (South African Development Community) region.

MSD's efforts to address healthcare challenges go beyond research and the development of medicines. The company also initiated programmes that foster disease education, prevention and care, and sustainable access to medicines in the developing world.

The Accelerated Access to HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment is one of these programmes. In an effort to improve access to HIV/AIDS care and treatment, the company introduced non-profit pricing of its anti-retrovirals—efavirenz (STOCRIN) and indinavir (CRIXIVAN)—in March 2001. To date, MSD provides its antiretroviral efavirenz to approximately 150,000 patients in South Africa and its surrounding countries at the non-profit price. In July 2005, MSD granted a royalty-free licence to a local company in South Africa, Aspen Pharmacare, for the manufacturing and distribution of efavirenz.

Constructive Engagement

At a time when the healthcare delivery system in South Africa is undergoing fundamental change, MSD has strengthened its efforts to constructively engage with government. The company's engagement with government is aimed at providing input on health legislation reforms and contributing to government's efforts to provide affordable, quality healthcare to all South Africans.

MSD has further participated with the government in implementing the new pricing regulations—regulations which aim to establish a transparent pricing system, while at the same time eliminating discounts and bonuses on a company-by-company and product-by-product basis. The Single Exit Pricing (SEP) system has evolved, bringing about a 21 percent reduction in ex-factory prices, one year after implementation.

Corporate Social Investment

Building South African Healthcare Professionals' Capacity

The continued education and capacity building of healthcare professionals in South Africa is a key focus area for MSD. The company has partnered with both local and international nursing federations, as well as with the government, in addressing the needs of nurses in the coun-

try. MSD has donated 23,000 copies of the *Merck Manual of Medical Information* to doctors in South Africa, as well as 20,000 copies of the *Merck Manual of Medical Information Home Edition* to professional nurses. The *Merck Manual* is the world's most widely read medical reference text and has been published by Merck & Co., Inc. on a not-for-profit basis for the past 100 years. Through this partnership, the ICN-Merck Mobile Library project was born. The mobile libraries provide the latest information on family and community health, disease prevention, health promotion, and health-services training to nurses who have limited access to reference materials. Today more than 126 libraries in 14 African countries have been established, reaching tens of thousands of people.

MSD also contributes to the curriculum development and physician training of South African health professionals.

Infrastructure and Resource Development

For more than 100 years, MSD has invested in and supported the highest standards of scientific excellence and clinical research. MSD and the University of Cape Town (UCT) have a long-standing partnership in advancing medical research and enhancing study opportunities for South African doctors. The company sponsored building a new wing of the Medical Library at UCT, as well as a new Postgraduate Information Technology Centre at UCT. This sponsorship has provided practitioners, especially those in rural under-resourced areas, with the latest electronic reference materials and teaching resources available to the profession.

In collaboration with the South African Institute of Medical Research (SAIMR) and the Department of Health, MSD facilitated the upgrade of the medical admissions ward at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital.

MSD also supported the establishment of the Ethics Institute of South Africa, a body which serves as a resource for the advancement of business ethics and public policy in South Africa.

Medical Donations Programmes

Eighteen years ago, MSD/Merck launched the MECTIZAN programme—one of the largest public-private partnerships ever established, and the largest ongoing donation programme in history.

MECTIZAN is the only known drug to halt the debilitating disease of river blindness (onchocerciasis), which affects more than 18 million people in large parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The company provides this medicine free of charge, and has to date contributed more than 1 billion tablets of MECTIZAN to help eliminate river blindness. Through the efforts of MSD/Merck and its partners, approximately 60 million people receive free MECTIZAN, and 16 million children have been spared the risk of river blindness infection in 11 countries in West Africa. The company is committed to donating MECTIZAN until river blindness is eradicated.

MSD also plays a pivotal role in the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships (ACHAP) programme. The company led this public-private partnership between the Botswana government, The Merck Company Foundation/Merck & Co., Inc., and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to establish a comprehensive HIV/AIDS programme that addresses the prevention, care, treatment, and support for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. There are more than 50,000 patients enrolled in this programme, and those who need anti-retrovirals receive first-world care at no cost. MSD is committed to donating its two antiretroviral medicines to the programme free of charge for the duration of the programme.

At this time of transformation in South Africa, MSD will continue its investment in South Africa by maintaining its rigorous scientific and ethical standards, and it will continue to bring innovative medicines to the market and to strengthen constructive engagement with the government in doing what it does best.



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