

African production of these commodities has been limited by a lack of technical knowledge and capital and by the small size of the average African farm. African farmers are, however, being encouraged to raise cash crops, and this trend has been accelerated by the purchase of European farmlands by the Government for the resettlement of unemployed and landless Africans. There are some small mineral deposits in Kenya, but their importance has been negligible.

Constitutional Development

A Legislative Council, which included representatives of the European population, was established in 1906. By 1930, the Indians in Kenya were granted five seats on the Council on a communal basis and provision was made for the election of an Arab member and the nomination of a member to represent the African majority.

African political activity was strongest among the Kikuyus and, in 1946, Kikuyu leaders formed the Kenya African Union. At the same time, a secret society known as the "Mau Mau" grew up among landless and unemployed Kikuyus. It preached an anti-government and anti-white policy and embarked on a programme of violence which led to the declaration of a state of emergency in 1952. Many Kikuyu leaders, including Jomo Kenyatta, were arrested and convicted of complicity in the activities of the Mau Mau. The Kenya African Union was banned. By 1956, the Government had successfully curbed the activities of the Mau Mau, but the emergency remained in force until the beginning of 1960.

The Mau Mau emergency convinced Britain that the African majority should be allowed a larger share in the government. In 1956 a constitution was introduced which provided for increased African, Asian and Arab representation in the Legislative and Executive Councils. Direct elections for the eight seats which were now reserved for Africans on the Legislative Council were held for the first time in 1957, but they failed to satisfy African leaders, who demanded increased representation. A constitutional conference was held in London in 1960, and agreement was reached on a new constitution, which was to become effective after elections were held in 1961.

Political Parties

Two African political parties emerged for the first time since the banning of the Kenya African Union. The Kenya African National Union (KANU) spoke for the three largest tribes — the Kikuyus, the Luos and the Wakamba. Boundaries established by the colonial administration had confined the various tribes in Kenya to separate "reserves". The Kikuyus, in particular, were restricted to crowded and intensively farmed reserves. With their numerical strength, supporters of KANU favoured a strong central government which would allow wider opportunities for the Kikuyus and, to a lesser extent, the Luos and the Wakamba.

The chief opposition to KANU came from the Kenya African Democratic Union (KADU), under the leadership of Ronald Ngala, which was supported