

# INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON HOUSING



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REFLECTIONS ON :

1. PLANNING FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRICT FOCUS STRATEGY IN KENYA
2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO MACHAKOS DISTRICT
3. RURAL HOUSING IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF MACHAKOS

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## 1.0 PLANNING FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT & DISTRICT FOCUS STRATEGY IN KENYA:

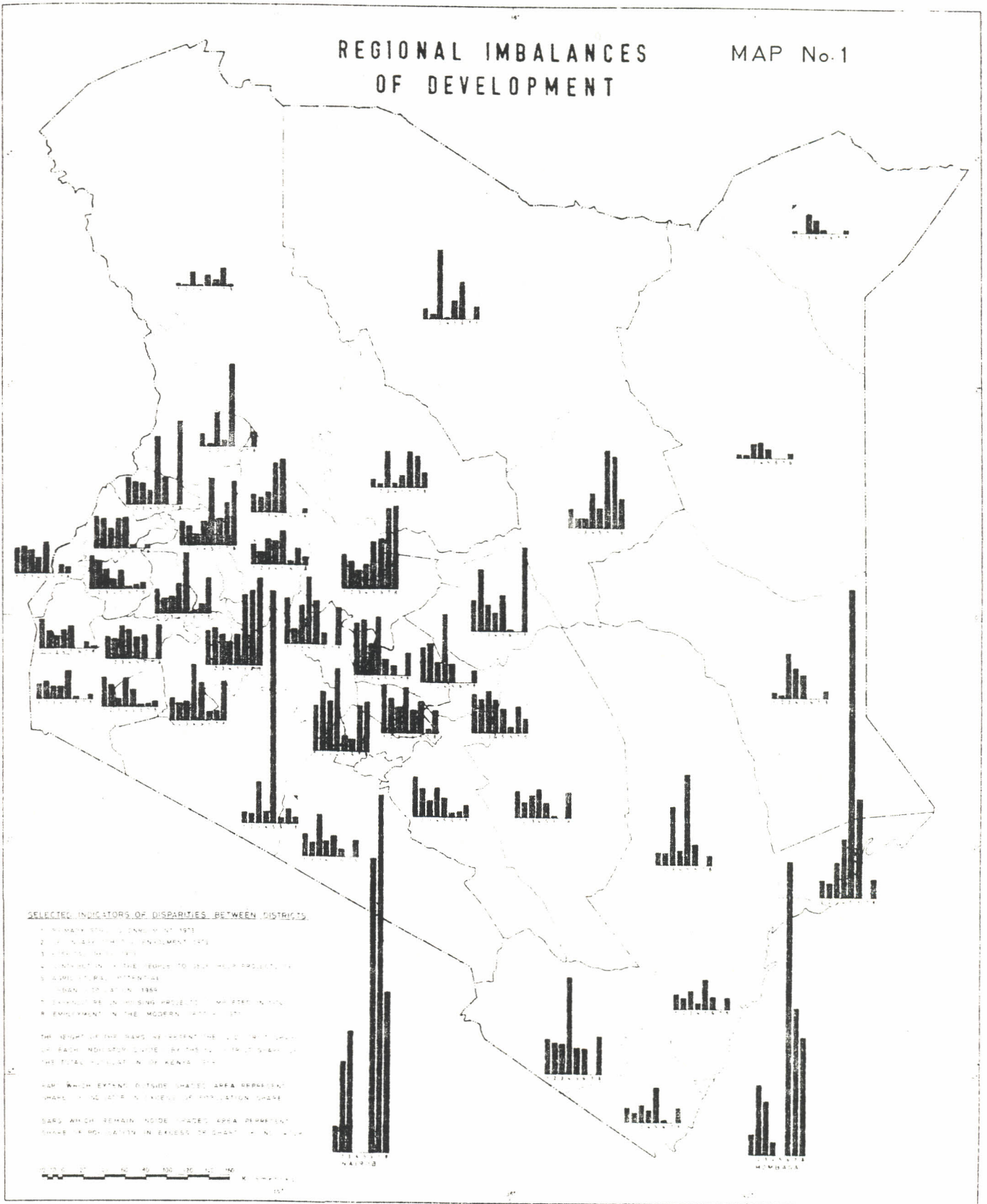
### 1.1 Rural Development: A Historical Account

The independent Kenya Government inherited a country that displayed great development imbalances and disparities between regions, within the regions, between urban and rural areas and between the various levels of town hierarchy (Map. No. 1). More than 80% of Kenya's population live and depend for their livelihood on rural environment. Hence the Government has been preoccupied since independence with improvement of rural areas. The Government's desire in this direction has been clearly stated in various policy documents including the first KANU Manifesto, in the Sessional Paper no. 10 of 1965 on 'African Socialism and its application to planning in Kenya and all national Development Plans.

The first Kanu manifesto among other things placed high premium on rural development as the main vehicle for achieving 'a just and fair distribution of national wealth between different areas and individuals in the country'. Rural development policy was explicitly stated as a prime objective of the second and third Development Plans (1970-1974 and 1974-1978, respectively). The key strategy of the 1970-1974 Development Plan was to direct an increasing share of the total resources available to the nation towards the rural areas. The Government was convinced that it was only through an accelerated development of the rural areas that balanced economic development could be achieved, that the necessary growth of employment opportunities could be generated and that the people as a whole could participate in the development process. The 3rd Development Plan (1974-1978) further highlighted the rural development strategy by noting that "Average incomes are much lower in the rural areas than in the urban areas". It is therefore, a fundamental objective of this plan to improve the overall standard of rural life at least as fast as the rise in average in the country as a whole. This will not however, be simply a matter of raising rural incomes but more particularly of raising the standard of services such as education and health and other basic needs towards those levels which

# REGIONAL IMBALANCES OF DEVELOPMENT

MAP No. 1



Source: Human Settlement in Kenya, 1978