

**OPENING REMARKS BY H.E. JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ON THE
CONFERENCE ON THE LEGACY OF MWALIMU NYERERE:
TANZANIA AND BEYOND, CARLETON UNIVERSITY, OTTAWA,
4TH MARCH, 2011**

*Your Honourable Deepak Obhrai,
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada;*

*Prof. Blair Rutherford,
Director of the Institute of African Studies at Carleton University;*

*Hon. Abdulrahman Kinana,
Former Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly;*

Members of the Institute and the Faculty of Public Affairs;

Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to personally thank Prof. Blair Rutherford, the Director of the Institute of African Studies of the Carleton University for his invitation to officiate at this important conference about the Legacy of Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere. It is a great honour for me and for my country. I am sorry that I could not attend in person but, I am glad modern technology has afforded me the opportunity to speak to you today.

Bilateral Relations

Canada and Tanzania have a long history of friendship and cooperation. Thanks to the wise decision taken by the founding father and the first President of Tanzania, the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and the Prime Minister of Canada, the late Pierre Trudeau, in 1965 the Tanzania embassy was opened in Ottawa. Ever since, our two countries have enjoyed warm and cordial relations, nurtured and advanced by the successive leaders in both countries.

Canada and Tanzania see eye to eye on many international issues and have supported each other in international fora. We have worked together on number of global issues. Recently, for example, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Stephen Harper and I, are Co-Chairing the Commission on Information and Accountability on Women's and Children's Health, set up by the United Nations.

Over the many years Tanzania has received invaluable development assistance from Canada covering many aspects of the socio-economic life of our country and her people. Tanzania is what it is today thanks in many ways to this generous support from the Canadian people.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Since, the early 1990's we have witnessed increased Canadian investments in Tanzania, particularly in gold, nickel and natural gas development. Today Canada is the largest investment source in mining and gas. It is heart-warming indeed, for me to have had the opportunity to play a part in these important developments. I was the Minister for Energy and Minerals (1990 – 94) who did the spade work of talking to Canadian companies and encourage them to come and invest in Tanzania. I still have fond memories of my visits and meetings with prospective investors in Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary. It was these meetings that brought companies like, Placer Dome, Ocelot, Trans-Canada, Sutton Resources, Pangea Minerals, etc take interest in Tanzania. Later Barrick and Xtrata Minerals followed.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Indeed, the relations between Canada and Tanzania have grown from strength to strength over the last 45 years. There is still a lot of room for further improvements. Tanzania still needs developments assistance in the areas of infrastructure, education, health, energy and water to further improve the living conditions of our people. Tanzania needs more investments and market access for our goods to enable the economy to grow, create jobs and increase people's income. Certainly, both Tanzania

and Canada need continued cooperation in the political and diplomatic arena. I promise Tanzania readiness in this regard.

Commemorating Nyerere's Legacy

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am short of words to express my happiness on your decision to hold this event to commemorate the legacy of Mwalimu Nyerere. On behalf of all Tanzanians, please, accept, our deepest appreciation to you and to all the faculty of the Institute of African Studies of the University of Carleton on this initiative. To us, in Tanzania this comes as no surprise at all. This University has a long history of association with Tanzania, particularly the University of Dar-es-Salaam.

A prominent Canadian, Prof. Cranford Pratt, a Carleton University Associate was the first Principal of the University College of Dar-es-Salaam, when it was established in 1961. A number of lecturers from this great University have taught and done research and sabbatical leave at the University of Dar es Salaam. Likewise, a number of lecturers from the University of Dar es salaam have studied there and done their sabbaticals here.

Our two Universities have a long standing student exchange programme. I am aware that this gathering today was preceded by a fund

raising dinner for the student exchange programme. I am happy with this programme and I urge you to continue to do the good work. Both Tanzania and Canada need the people to people cooperation besides the benefits of human resource development.

Mwalimu Nyerere's Legacy to Tanzanians

Dear Participants;

I thank you for the historic decision to spend your valuable time to discuss the legacy of Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the first President of Tanzania and Father of the Nation as we popularly call him. We, the people of Tanzania love him, adore him and still hold him in very high regard. He is almost everything to Tanzania. He is the liberator, he is the nation builder, he is the Pan Africanist, he is the internationalist and he is the humanist.

As liberator, Mwalimu Nyerere led Tanganyika's struggle for the independence. He sacrificed a well paying job of a secondary school teacher to engage himself fulltime to the struggle against British colonial rule. Fortunately, his efforts payed dividends on December, 9th, 1961 Tanganyika, now Mainland, Tanzania, attained her independence. After that Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, had the rare privilege to lead his people in nation building efforts for 23 years. He succeeded in building a unified

nation and a united people who felt proud to be Tanzanians, despite belonging to 120 tribes, different racial groups and subscribing to different religious faiths.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

President Nyerere espoused a socialist philosophy as it was fashionable those days. He tried to build a socialist nation out of Tanzania and Tanzanians. As in all socialist countries, in the world, the policy was not so successful. However, it has left behind a strong sense of belonging, unity and pride among the people of Tanzania. It is these tenets sense, which in many ways, guide and hold the Tanzanian nation together in harmony, peace and tranquillity.

Mwalimu Nyerere the Pan-Africanist

Dear Participants,

Mwalimu Nyerere was a great Pan-africanist who worked tirelessly for the total liberation and unity of Africa and its people. He was guided by the principle of “as long as one country was under colonial rule the Tanzania and the whole of Africa was not free”. It is on the basis of this principle that President Nyerere was deeply involved in the liberation struggle in Africa. He was a great advocate of the anti colonial struggle. He allowed his country to host liberation movements from Southern Africa and

assist them in training and getting weapons. He agreed to host the OAU liberation committee in Dar es Salaam and Chaired the Frontline, States, an organisation dedicated to spearheading the liberation of Southern Africa.

He was a great advocate of unity and integration of African nations. To him “unity is strength, division is weakness”. So far, African countries weak and poor as they are, unity and integration were the only way to overcome them. It was this philosophy which leads to the union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar in 1964. Todate this is the only union among African nations which has survived.

It was in the same vain that Mwalimu Nyerere was among the founding fathers of the Organisation of African Unity in 1963. He worked tirelessly for its building and strengthening.

Mwalimu Nyerere’s Legacy to the World

At the world stage, Mwalimu Nyerere was a great internationalist. He was renowned for his strong commitment to multilateralism and global justice. He was a strong supporter of the United Nations and its role as guardian of world peace and promoter harmony among nations. He abhorred the social economic injustice being perpetrated by nations or people against other nations and peoples. He tirelessly advocated and worked for a new world economic order so that countries of the South

could benefit equitably in the world economic and financial architecture. No wonder, he served in the Willy Brandt Commission and was Chairman of the South Commission. No wonder, also, he was deeply involved in the Non Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Group of 77 and China.

Closing

Ladies and Gentlemen;

You will agree with me that it would need many hours if not days to speak about this great man in great detail. I am glad this is what you intend to do today. For Tanzanians and for some of us who had the rare privileged of working under him and seen him lead and guide his nation, believe that his legacy shall remain immortal. Tanzania still continue to benefit from it in many ways and serves as reminder about what is best for us. We will always cherish his legacy.

I once again thank you for the invitation and I wish you enriching and successful deliberations.