

**SPEECH BY
HIS EXCELLENCY
BENJAMIN WILLIAM MKAPA
AT HIS INAUGURATION AS
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.**

**NATIONAL STADIUM
DAR ES SALAAM
9th November, 2000**

Your Majesties;
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government;
Your Excellency the President of Zanzibar;
Retired President of the United Republic of Tanzania;
Secretary-General of the OAU;
Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly;
Honourable Chief Justice;
Your Excellencies Heads of Diplomatic Missions;
Invited Guests;
Fellow Citizens;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I should like to begin by welcoming all Heads of State and Government from neighbouring countries, and from Southern Africa, who accepted my invitation and set aside their important tasks to be with us as we celebrate this auspicious event. I thank you so much, our brothers and sisters, for coming.

You will forgive us for we had to reschedule this event from the originally planned date of November 4. Perhaps, just like a child learning to walk, we had too much confidence in ourselves, wanting to learn how to walk well too quickly, focussing our eyes on the kind of multiparty democracy suitable to our circumstances as Tanzanians.

In a journey of 100 steps, we walked very well the first 96 steps, faltering in the last 4. But like a keen child, we stood up, dusted ourselves, avoided the pitfalls in our path, and now are well poised to proceed towards our intended destination.

It is clear our people are well poised for such a journey, and I want to thank them once again for coming out in such large numbers to participate in all the stages of fulfilling their civic duty in a democratic system, a system in which leaders are elected; they do not impose themselves on their people.

In this nation founded by Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere and Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume, and according to the credo of Chama Cha Mapinduzi, (I quote) "Leadership is trusteeship, I shall not use my position of leadership or that of any other person for my own benefit". So what is important to our people is not only that leaders should not impose themselves, but that they should not aspire for leadership in pursuit of personal glorification, or private gain. Instead, they should strive for the glory of the nation, and the gain of the people. In this country of Mwalimu, you are elected to serve, not to be served. Once again the people of Tanzania have spoken loudly and clearly that this is the type of leadership they want. This is the political culture of this country, which constitutes the foundation upon which our nationhood and our unity stand.

In this year's General Elections, registration was in excess of 97% of those eligible to vote. Many of them diligently attended campaign rallies of all political parties, paying due attention to the campaign speeches of all candidates. They did not want to choose in ignorance; only after carefully considering and assessing the arguments of each of the candidates. This is a manifestation of the freedom to choose, such as a free man or woman has in a free country. And they did so in peace and tranquillity in most parts of the country, patiently fulfilling their rights and duties to elect their leaders, regardless of the hot sun, hunger and thirst. I thank and congratulate all our people.

On behalf of Chama Cha Mapinduzi, I thank all our people for returning us to power that we may lead this country for another 5 years. You have given us an unquestionable mandate to govern. You have given us a thunderous victory. You have given us the political power to fulfil what we promised you. I thank you very much.

It is also gratifying that, unlike 1995, this time round we were able as a nation to meet a larger share of the cost of our elections. As I have stated before, an election is a manifestation of freedom. So, notwithstanding the fact that our economy remains underdeveloped, we should always strive to increase the share of the cost of elections that we are able to finance ourselves, not just in terms of financial resources but also in terms of preparations, administration, political and technical management.

We have reduced our dependence on donors, but we still needed their help to fill the financing gap that remained after our own efforts were exhausted. I should, therefore, like to use this opportunity to thank all donor countries, agencies and

international organisations that helped us. It is my hope that 5 years from now we shall be in a better position to reduce our dependence on donors even more significantly for such an important task that reflects our freedom as General Elections are.

I want also to thank and congratulate the National Electoral Commission, beginning with the Chairman, Justice Lewis M. Makame, the Vice-Chairman, Justice Brig. Gen. Augustino S. L. Ramadhani, other Members of the Electoral Commission and the Secretariat, together with all Election Supervisors and their Deputies, as well as all government employees who were involved in one way or another in ensuring we have an election that is well organised, free and fair as planned. To you all, I say thank you very much.

I am grateful to all heads of all government organs, including armed forces and those not in uniform, and all those who work in these organs, for what they did to assist our two Electoral Commissions, and for ensuring the defence of our country and the security of our people during and after the campaigns and the elections. I thank you, and I congratulate you for a job well done.

In a special way, I thank religious leaders and their congregations for urging peace, and for praying day and night for stability in Tanzania, and for a suitable leader for our country. I believe that Almighty God answered those prayers.

I thank international observers who decided to come and observe our elections. Where they have praised us, we accept those praises with humility. Where they have been critical, as we have been critical ourselves, we have taken into account those criticisms. We could not obviously accept their demands; but their advice will be taken into account in the conduct of future elections. We are grateful to them.

I also thank people from the media. Many of them did a commendable job in covering the campaign, informing the public on the different Election Platforms, and the elections as a whole. I am sure they have all acquired greater experience that will come in handy in future elections.

My Fellow Citizens,

The large victory you gave us is an expression of the great trust you have in me and in my Party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi. I am truly overwhelmed by that trust; a trust far in excess of what you gave us in 1995. This victory is an illustration of your recognition of the history and record of Chama Cha Mapinduzi.

It is also the recognition of what we achieved together in the last 5 years, and the strength of argument in our conceptualisation of the priorities ahead of us as a nation, and how we have prepared ourselves to discharge the tasks this entails in co-operation with you.

As promised, we shall continue with our political and economic reforms with a more focussed goal of ensuring the roots of democracy go deeper in our midst, and that democracy has meaning in the lives of the ordinary people, rather than something embraced only as a fashion. *In so doing, we shall put even more attention to safeguarding basic human rights and the expansion of the horizons of freedom of our people. But we shall do so in a manner that respects and protects our African heritage, our Tanzanian heritage, our history, our circumstances and our values. Those traditional values include anchoring human rights in a community and a nation, rather than in an individual, placing community and national interests above personal interests. They also involve fulfilling our duties to family and the community before demanding rights from the family and the community.*

We shall also strengthen our political institutions so as to better fulfil their role in a thriving multi-party democratic dispensation. Attitudes of political leaders, and those of our people, have to evolve to a point where politics need not be a dirty game, a game of chicanery, deception and mud slinging, but an activity that can be pursued in dignity and decency. *Political opposition need not evoke enmity; what is important is that all the players put community and national interests first. I will do all I can to ensure Good Governance, guided by our laws, procedures and regulations. I ask the Opposition to observe the need to be a Loyal Opposition that also respects our laws, procedures and regulations.*

I am conscious of the fears some people have that in view of the huge majority with which CCM has been returned to power, in terms of the Presidential votes, and the number of seats we have in Parliament and the Zanzibar House of Representatives, and in Local Governments, CCM may be tempted to rule as if in a defacto One Party State, completely ignoring the views of others. I want to assure you all, my fellow citizens, that it shall not be like that in the next 5 years during which I will lead the Government.

Obviously, we shall have to implement those promises we made to our people in our Manifesto, and do so in confidence knowing we have a solid mandate. That is what the people sent us to do in Government. We shall do so. But we will keep our

ears open to opposition views and suggestions that are intended to improve on what we shall be doing for the benefit of all the people and our nation. It is not possible to climb a coconut tree using only one hand. The second hand is our fellow citizens with views and opinions that are different from us. We will, therefore, take into account those views and opinions. Advice based on strength of argument will be received with open arms; pressures based on argument of force and violence will be rejected.

My Fellow Citizens,

During the campaign, I said over and over again that a dream is not an income. To dream is important, but dreams alone do not bring about development; and the capacity to highlight problems is not the same as the capacity to solve problems. What is important is to build the capacity of the economy, a modern economy, to provide and sustain modern social and economic services and infrastructure. That is the truth.

Over the last 5 years we focussed on rectifying policy, structural, and administrative bottlenecks in our economy. To a large extent we have succeeded to do so, and I want once again to thank our people for supporting us and for their patience. In the next 5 years, we want to ensure more people begin to benefit from the reforms we have undertaken, in an increasingly modernising economy. And as a free people, we must increase the scope of ownership of our development and our reforms, as well as of the programmes and projects for development at the national, community and household level.

Our country is richly endowed with natural resources. We shall create a better environment for our people to use those resources, including land, waters, livestock and minerals. In doing so, we shall give priority to human resources development, especially giving our people the training, skills and capital with which to self-develop. Education, health, water, infrastructure and the co-operatives are matters that will receive greater attention as we seek to empower our people for self-development and self-reliance. *As our Election Manifesto emphasised, the main task ahead of us is to build the foundation of a modern economy of a self-reliant nation, and to empower our people economically.*

My Fellow Citizens,

I should like to thank all the neighbouring countries for their pursuit of a policy of good neighbourly relations towards us, as we do towards them. Peace and

security in our region is necessary if we are to direct our meagre resources towards the war on poverty, rather than defence spending or fighting with one another. Peace and security are also necessary if we are to promote regional integration, and expand business and investment opportunities, all of which are necessary for economic development.

In the next five years we will increase our efforts towards strengthening relations with our neighbours, and playing an even greater role in the East African Community and the Southern Africa Development Community. Likewise, we will continue to do all we can to contribute towards peace and security in the Great Lakes Region and beyond.

My Fellow Citizens,

These were our first General Elections since the death of the Founding Father of our Nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere. Physically he is not with us, but the foundations of nationhood, of freedom and of political maturity he left us remain strong in our hearts, along with his speeches and words of wisdom, which guided us during this election. We will forever be grateful to him, and cherish his memory by defending the foundations of this Nation that he built and bequeathed to us.

Questions were asked, within and outside Tanzania, if in the absence of Mwalimu those foundations would survive the divisive pressures of General Elections. But, we can now say with confidence that Tanzanians have been very good students of Mwalimu. They have continued to be guided by his words of wisdom. Most of our people have continued to eschew and speak against divisive forces such as tribalism, religious bigotry, all forms of discrimination, as well as any efforts to break up the Union. I thank all our people for this. *The Government I will constitute and lead will continue to strengthen the Union as a pillar and an expression of our Freedom and our Revolution.*

As Mwalimu's students, we are now faced with another test, and that is how we are going to comport ourselves after these General Elections. We will be tested on our ability to continue to maintain peace and stability, forgetting our political differences, and continuing to build our nation as brothers and sisters. I want to assure you that on the part of the Government, and of Chama Cha Mapinduzi, we begin this new term of office without any ill-will towards anyone, and we are prepared to do whatever possible to develop good relations between all political parties, and between the Government and the people.

For, Mwalimu brought us up as one people, brothers and sisters in a family called Tanzania. We will not allow the introduction of a multi-party political system to be used by anyone, within or from outside our country, as the thin end of a wedge intended to weaken our unity and dilute the values that make us Tanzanians. I ask all our citizens to be vigilant, as the Government will be vigilant, against such tendencies. The rights of those from places where we did not win will be protected as well as of those from places where many people voted for us. We have assumed the responsibility of leadership for the whole nation, and for all Tanzanians.

My Fellow Citizens,

We cannot promise to put money in your pockets, but we commit ourselves to creating opportunities for self-development for as many people as possible. Chama Cha Mapinduzi has always espoused the concept of development for all. We do not want to leave anyone behind in our march of development. We must move together; we must strive to stop the wealth gap from widening further among our people.

The huge majority with which we have been put back in power means that we got votes from the entire cross section of our people. This is not surprising, for we proffer hope to everyone, the rich and the poor, the young and old alike, men and women, the employed and the self-employed. The Government that I will constitute will begin by addressing these hopes and aspirations of our people. Tanzania is for all of us, and each one of us has a stake and the right to take part in its development, and to benefit from its successes.

I repeat. We will do all we can, in co-operation with you, to fulfil your aspirations in putting us in power. Together, in partnership and co-operation between the Central Government, the Local Governments, our fellow Tanzanians, Non-Governmental Organisations including religious institutions, and donor countries, agencies and multilateral institutions, we can raise our productivity, increase the pace of economic growth, and improve our social services.

We can, and indeed we must, wage war more effectively on the poverty afflicting our people, ensuring no child or adult goes to bed hungry, ensuring each child is immunised against preventable diseases, ensuring all people have access to safe water, ensuring every child, male and female, gets quality basic education, and ensuring that basic medical care is not beyond the reach of the ordinary person.

Guided by Development Vision 2025, and with co-operation among all of us, we will make good headway in all these areas, making faster advances in the war against poverty.

My Fellow Citizens,

In political and economic terms, we are today witnessing the dawn of a new day, a day that 5 years from today I hope we shall be able to say was the beginning of a better life for every Tanzanian; a life free from abject poverty. Let us celebrate together this dawn, knowing that our fate and destiny is in our collective hands. If we all decide and act with diligence, determination, intelligence and discipline, in co-operation with one another, inspired by our hopes and aspirations, and driven by the practical implementation of the concept of Freedom is Work, we shall surely succeed. Let us have confidence in ourselves, and I am sure God will be on our side.

God Bless Africa.

God Bless Tanzania.

I thank you for your kind attention.