

**Talking Notes of the launching of the book AFRICAN LIBERATION;
The legacy of Mwalimu Nyerere, Tuesday 13th April 2010, Nkurumah
Hall, University of Dar Es Salaam**

Mwalimu Nyerere was firm believer of African Liberation as much as he was on the vision of United Africa and Ujamaa.

Mwalimu and Nkurumah, as much as they differed in some points specifically on the issue of the approaches toward United Africa, both shared the same understanding, passion and total commitment on African liberation struggles.

He played a front line and central role in leading and helping the struggle. He was sound strategists and brilliant tactician of the liberation movement in Africa.

Mwalimu engaged himself in full, not only into supporting the armed struggle but also in diplomatic and political struggle where he used every opportunities he got to press for the need of liberation of all African countries and the support for the liberation movements around the continent. He was never timid nor opportunist in his desire to push for the African liberation agenda whenever he got the chance.

He allowed Dar Es Salaam as centre of the liberation struggle not only for African countries but also for other colonized, oppressed and disposed people of the world, particularly Palestinians and Saharawi's.

Soon after African countries agreed on establishing the African Liberation committee, he invited the committee to open the Headquarters here in Dar in 1964 soon after the OAU Heads of States and Governments adopted a resolution to establish the committee in their 1963 summit. He made sure it is well supported in both human and financial resources even during the most difficult times economically and diplomatically.

In essence he turned Dar Es Salaam into a focal point or Mecca of all liberation heroes whereby both East and Western envoys, Intellectuals and other people who had anything to do with the liberation movement, passed to Dar es Salaam for consultations, ^{STR to Dar Es Salaam} stargazing, mobilizing and even coordinating the missions.

He vigorously supported the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples - resolution 1514 (XV) and the establishment of the Special Committee of 24 on decolonisation famously known as Committee of 24 by making sure Tanzania plays a front role in its responsibilities.

During the UN Summit in 1970 which I was present, Mwalimu gave a powerful speech on liberation and argued that there can not be non aggression pact with aggression itself still existing. This was after Mozambique signed a famous Mkomati Accord with Apartheid South Africa. However, even then Mwalimu never lost his focus on the Unity among All African Countries and groups in coordinating the front line struggle. He truly believed in the Unity of the oppressed however the situation.

While some people have argued that Mwalimu was paying much attention to liberation struggle that other pressing national issues, we should all understand, rightly, Mwalimu believed that we can not be free nor prosperous as long as there any of our friends in the continent under foreign domination and oppression.

Many people from every side including his fellow African leaders pressed him a lot to write his memories, he was always hesitant to right about himself. It was only few months before he passed away that he agreed with the late Prof Haroub Othman, after many years of requests from different people, to write his memoire.

He was avid and prolific writer. He wrote, preserved and published most of his ideas and also analysed and translated the works of other people including the Merchant of Venice and by the time he passed away he had already finished translating Plato's master piece The Republic.

Mwalimu was, as the Late Prof Othman wrote, An Intellectual and Philosophical King in Power.