

POLITICAL SYSTEM IN TANZANIA

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During the 1950s a likely future leader of Tanganyika emerges in the person of Julius Nyerere. Son of a chief, a convert to Roman Catholicism while studying at Makerere college in Uganda, then an undergraduate for three years in Edinburgh university, Nyerere returns to Tanganyika in 1953.

He immediately founds a political party, TANU or the Tanganyika African National Union (evolving it from an earlier and defunct Tanganyika African Association). From the start its members feature prominently in elections to the legislative assembly. When independence follows, in 1961, Nyerere becomes the new nation's prime minister. At independence in 1961, In 1962 Tanganyika adopts a republican constitution and Nyerere is elected president. Tanganyika (Tanzania Mainland) had a multiparty political system. The Tanganyika African National Union (TANU), established in 1954, was the overwhelmingly dominant political party in pre independence Tanganyika. Other political parties of this era included the United Tanganyika Party, the African National Congress, and the All Muslim National Unity of Tanganyika. In Zanzibar, there were three important political parties prior to independence. These were the ZNP (Zanzibar Nationalist Party, ASP (Afro-Shirazi Party), and ZPPP (Zanzibar and Pemba Peoples's Party). On February 5, 1977, ASP the ruling party of Zanzibar and TANU merged into the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) or Revolutionary Party. It became the sole legal political party in Tanzania. All candidates had to be approved by the CCM and were permitted to campaign only on the CCM platform. Elections within the single party framework were competitive, however.

Tanzania, a former British colony, became independent in 1961. It is a united Republic composed of Tanzania and Zanzibar. President Julius Nyerere led the country in accordance with the "African socialism" single-party model. He gave up power voluntarily in 1990, handing over to Ali Hassn Mwinyi, designated as being his successor in 1985 when he was President of Zanzibar. At the same time, the President of Zanzibar, Abdul Wakil, announced his resignation after five years in power and Salim Almour was appointed to succeed him. Mwinyi and Almour were confirmed as heads of the country in non-competitive elections under the

banner of the Chama Chama Mapinduzi (CCM), the single party at that time. From 1991 onwards, the Tanzania Democratic Forum led by the former Secretary General of the single party, the dissident Oscar Kambona, demanded that the single party system be brought to an end and that a multiparty system be legalized. The opposition forces organized themselves to demand political openness. In reply to this, the government set up a commission entrusted with the task of formulating proposals on the subject. In 1992, a special session of the single party came out in favor of the multiparty system but on condition that the new parties have support both in Zanzibar and Tanzania and that they include no ethnic, regional or race preferences in their program.

From independence in 1961 until the mid-1980s, Tanzania was a one-party state, with a socialist model of economic development. Beginning in the mid-1980s, under the administration of President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Tanzania undertook a number of political and economic reforms. In January and February 1992, the government decided to adopt multiparty democracy. Legal and constitutional changes led to the registration of 11 political parties. Two parliamentary by-elections (won by CCM) in early 1994 were the first-ever multiparty elections in Tanzanian history.

The Chama Cha Mapinduzi (Party of the Revolution in Swahili) is the ruling political party of Tanzania.

CCM

History

The party was created February 5, 1977, under the leadership of Julius Nyerere, as the merger of the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU), the then ruling party in Tanganyika, and the Afro-Shirazi Party (ASP), the then ruling party in Zanzibar.

TANU/CCM has dominated the politics of Tanzania since the independence of Tanganyika in 1962. Due to the merger with the ASP, from 1977 it has been also the ruling party in Zanzibar, though its grip on power has been more contested by the Civic United Front (CUF). It was the only legal party until July 1, 1992, when amendments to the national Constitution and a number of laws permitting and regulating the formation

and operations of more than one political party were enacted by the National Assembly or Bunge.

Aim and Objectives

CCM aims at defending the independence of our country and the freedom of its citizens

Ideology

Originally a champion of African socialism, upholder of the system of collectivized agriculture known as Ujamaa and firmly oriented to the left, the CCM espouses today a more pragmatic approach. It conceives of economic modernization and free market policies as ways to raise the living standards of the citizens of Tanzania, one of the poorest countries in the world. CCM hopes to continue to privatize and modernize in order to ensure:

1. Increased productivity which would boost the country's revenue
2. Increased employment and improved management
3. Acquisition of new and modern technology
4. Increased and expanded local and international markets for our products, and;
5. Improved and strengthened private sector serving as the engine of the national economy while the government sharpens its focus on provision of social services, infrastructure, security and governance of the state.

Similarly, the CCM's major foreign policy focus is economic diplomacy within the international system, and peaceful coexistence with neighbors. Chama Cha Mapinduzi believes that all human beings are equal

Electoral performance

CCM has won all elections, presidential and legislative, held both in Tanzania at state level and in Zanzibar at autonomous level under the multi-party system: 1995, 2000 and 2005.

In the last elections for Zanzibar's presidency and House of Representatives, held on 30 October 2005, incumbent president and CCM candidate Amani Abeid Karume won with 53.18% of the vote, while the party won 30 seats out of 50.

In the last national elections for Tanzania's presidency and National Assembly, held on 14 December 2005, Foreign Minister and CCM

candidate **Jakaya Kikwete** won with 80.28% of the vote. Out of the 232 seats filled through direct election, the CCM won 206.

Leadership

TANU/CCM has had four chairmen in its history, each of whom was president of the United Republic of Tanzania during his term as party chairman. The first chairman, from 1954 to 1990, was Julius Nyerere (president of Tanganyika 1962-1964 and of Tanzania 1964-1985); the second chairman, from 1990 to 1996, was Ali Hassan Mwinyi (president of the Republic 1985-1995); the third CCM chairman, from 1996 until 2006, was Benjamin Mkapa, president of the Republic in 1995-2005. Tanzania's current president, Jakaya Kikwete, has led the party since 2006.

Other Political Parties

Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (HADEMA) led by Edwin Mtei
Civic United Front (CUF-Zanzibar) led by Seif Sharif Hamad
National Convention for Constitution and Reconstruction (NCCR) led by Augustine Lyatonga Mrema
United Democratic Party (UDP) led by John Mamose Cheyo
National League for Democracy (NLD)
Tanzania People Party (TPP)
United People Democratic Party (UPDP)
National Reconstruction Alliance (NRA)
Popular National Party (PONA)
Tanzania Democratic Alliance
Tanzania Labour Party (TLP)
United Democratic Party (UDP)

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