



**DISCUSSION NOTES BY H. E. DR SAM NUJOMA,  
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA  
AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE DISCUSSION PANEL ON THE  
CONFEREMENT OF PACON POSTHUMOUS PAN AFRIKAN  
ICON AWARD ON HIS EXCELLENCY JULIUS  
KAMBARAGE MWALIMU NYERERE,**

**10 SEPTEMBER 2015  
WINDHOEK COUNTRY CLUB  
RESORTS AND CASINO**

\*Check Against Delivery

Directors of Ceremonies, Dr. Kaire Mbuende;  
Madam Monica Geingos, the First Lady;  
Madam Maria Nyerere the Widow of the Late President Mwalimu Kambarage Julius Nyerere and your daughter in Law Madam judge Nyerere standing in for Honourable Charles Makongoro Nyerere;  
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;  
Honourable Members of Parliament present;  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;  
Professor Kingo Mchombu, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science of the University of Namibia;  
Distinguished Eminent and Board Members of PACON;  
Distinguished Invited Guests;  
Members of the Media;  
Fellow Pan Africanist:

Asante Sana Mama Nyerere!

When I left Namibia on the 29 February 1960, through the then British Bechuanaland, and then Northern and Southern Rhodesia, I finally arrived in the then Tanganyika where I met the late Mwalimu Kambarage Julius Nyerere in Dar-es-Salaam, on my way to New York to petition the United Nations on behalf of the people of Namibia. As such, I can testify to the fact that he was truly a great teacher, a man of unmatched wisdom, a charismatic and foresighted -visionary leader of our time.

At that time, the late Mwalimu Kambarage Julius Nyerere was the President of TANU and a member of the Legislative Council of Tanganyika. He had just arrived from New York where he had been petitioning at the UN demanding for the independence of Tanganyika from the British colonialists. He addressed a rally in Dar-es-Salaam informing the public of the result of the petitioning at the United Nations' Committee on the decolonisation from Britain in 1961.

I met Mwalimu Nyerere who at that time was the President of TANU and we discussed at length our plans concerning the liberation of the African continent. The Mau Mau State of Emergency was still in force in Kenya, and after our discussion he told me that the only way to get out of East Africa was to travel to Khartoum in the Sudan, and that I should try to cross the continent to Accra – Ghana.

He arranged for me to stay at Mangomeni Mukumi with his friend Mr. Mbakbenja, and said he would talk to the British Governor about me being in Tanganyika and my intention to proceed to New York to petition at the UN on behalf of the oppressed people of Namibia by the minority white South African Boers.

I stayed about for a fortnight in Dar-es-Salaam while we planned my journey. Since I had no passport or legal document, the British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) refused to put me on board unless I had a Dar-es-Salaam-Nairobi-Khartoum return ticket.

In the event the Sudanese refused me entry at Khartoum airport, they would have to fly me back to Dar-es-Salaam. There was also the problem of me being illegally in Tanganyika, while 'wanted' by the white Minority South African colonial authority which was illegally occupying our country.

Mwalimu Nyerere, as he had promised, went to the Governor and told him who I was and that I was intending to go to the UN. The Governor, Sir Richard Turnbull, was a good man. He said, "So long as he is leaving the country it's quite all right having him here until he finds his way out of the British Tanganyika territory".

Tanganyika achieved its independence on 9 December 1961. Early in 1962, Mwalimu Nyerere – at the time serving as the new country's first Prime Minister – assisted us further, as he had already done in so many other ways.

In 1962, one year after independence when Tanganyika became a Republic, Mwalimu Nyerere was its first President, and remained President when in 1964 Tanganyika and Zanzibar together formed the new nation of Tanzania. The British had started on a policy of uniting Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika in the late 1940s. Mwalimu Nyerere broadened this in the spirit of Pan-Africanism, by bringing in other East African states as well as Nyasaland, Northern and Southern Rhodesia (later Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe). They had formed a joint association, with Pan-African ideals.

When I returned to Dar-es-Salaam from New York in January 1961, I got together with representative of other national liberation movements of east, central and southern Africa – UNIP of Zambia (then Northern Rhodesia), KANU of Kenya (Jomo Kenyatta was still in detention), ANC and PAC of South Africa, ZAPU and ZANU of the then Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, SWAPO and SWANU of Namibia. By that time TANU of the Tanganyika had already formed a government.

We fitted together those ideas Mwalimu Julius Nyerere had already brought to form the Pan-African Freedom Movement for East, Central and Southern Africa, known as PAFMECSA. As an organization, PAFMECSA played an important role by uniting the African liberation movements and consolidating the ideals of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. With his passing away on October 14, 1999, Africa and the world have lost a truly great statesman, a towering intellectual figure, a caring teacher and a consummate diplomat.

As the Founder and first President of the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU), the first Prime Minister of Tanganyika and the founding President of Tanganyika and of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mwalimu Nyerere is, indeed, the father of the Tanzanian nation and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Beyond that, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere was a distinguished political mentor of a whole generation of African leaders.

Following Tanzania's achievement of independence in 1961, Dar-es-Salaam, the capital of Tanzania, became the mecca for the national liberation movements from East, Central and Southern Africa; and following the establishment of the Organisation for African Unity, of which late President Mwalimu Nyerere was one of

the founding fathers, Mwalimu offered to host the headquarters of the OAU Liberation Committee in Dar-es-Salaam.

In the decades which followed, the OAU Liberation Committee played a critical role in assisting all the national liberation movements with the necessary means to wage the armed liberation struggle which culminated in the total liberation of our continent from the yoke of colonialism and foreign domination. His commitment to Africa's struggle against colonial oppression is, therefore, unparalleled and his dedication to the cause of African unity is immeasurable.

We recall with great respect and deep appreciation the fact that before he was taken ill, Mwalimu was actively involved in the efforts to resolve the bloody internal conflict in Burundi. He was an all-time activist when it came to issues of freedom, social justice, peace, reconciliation and African unity. In this connection, he has left an indelible mark on contemporary African history. His legacy of total commitment to social justice and progress in Africa and the world at large will be remembered by present and future generations of Africa.

Speaking personally, I can state here that Mwalimu Julius Nyerere was my political mentor for decades, that is, from the first time I met him when I arrived in Tanganyika in 1960, on my way to New York to petition the United Nations on behalf of the people of Namibia, as I stated previously. As such, I can testify to the fact that he was truly a great teacher, a man of unmatched wisdom, a charismatic and visionary leader.

Namibia owes Mwalimu Nyerere a debt of gratitude because it was at a time when he was at the helm of the then young Tanzanian state that SWAPO established its first office in exile in Dar-es-Salaam.

It was also during this time that we were given the facilities and opportunity to form and build the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), the military wing of SWAPO which, over a period of nearly three decades, carried out a protracted and bitter armed liberation struggle to shake the foundations of apartheid colonialism of the minority white South African regime and to compel the apartheid minority government of South Africa to agree to the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 435 on the decolonisation of our country from the white minority regime of South Africa which led to Namibia's freedom and genuine independence on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990.

Therefore, as a father, a friend, and a highly respected African patriot, Mwalimu Nyerere has had, and will continue to have, a special place in the hearts of many Namibians and other Africans who have made Tanzania their second home during those dark days of Africa's anti-colonial struggle.

Today, we walk tall with our heads high because we are free and our human dignity has been restored, thanks to the invaluable contribution which Mwalimu Nyerere has made to speed up the process of the total liberation of our continent from colonial and foreign occupation.

Against this background, I highly commend the PAN-Afrikan Center in Namibia (PACON) for conferring the well-deserved PACON Posthumous Pan Afrikan Icon Award on His Excellency Julius Kambarage Mwalimu Nyerere. The significance of conferring this award in the month in which Dr Kwame Nkrumah was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 1909 and in which Steven Bantu Biko was cold bloodedly murdered by the South African Boers on 12 September 1977, two of Africa foremost Pan-Africanist, cannot be overemphasized.

To Madam Maria Nyerere and your son, Comrade Charles Makongoro Nyerere, once again, on behalf the Nujoma Family and indeed on my behalf, please accept our heartfelt condolences and deep sympathy on the untimely departure of your beloved husband and father, His Excellency Julius Kambarage Mwalimu Nyerere.

Long live the spirit of Julius Mwalimu Nyerere!  
Long Live the African Unity!  
Long live PACON!

I thank you