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Salim heads list in Nyerere successor choice

Herald Editor,
Tommy Sithole
DAR ES SALAAM.

THE central committee of the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi held a lengthy meeting yesterday at Ikulu (State House) to sift through candidates being nominated as successors to President Nyerere who retires from office in October.

A tight lid has been placed on the deliberations and mass media leaders who are normally allowed to participate in the national executive committee which meets tomorrow to trim nominations down to just one have been told not to attend.

But the grapevine, which is the only source to go by as the official news sources were completely plugged, says Cde Salim Ahmed Salim, the prime minister, who originates from Zanzibar islands, is now the strongest candidate.

The presidential nominations have completely

eclipsed the other important election function whose process has also just started: the choosing of parliamentary representatives for the union government and the house of representatives in Zanzibar.

Voters have been registering across the country with registration offices staying open all day but with very little activity taking place.

The story is the same in the northern Tanzanian towns of Arusha and Moshi, which I recently visited, and here in Dar es Salaam. The explanation is that voters would rather wait to see whom the national conference of the CCM nominates for the presidency on Thursday before registering.

What it means is that they might not do so if an unpopular candidate is

nominated. However, this would also adversely affect the election of parliamentary representatives.

Tanzania is about the only country in Africa that has perfected the one-party democracy. As a result the general election is as heatedly contested as any in multi-party democracies.

Candidates need to be members of CCM; subscribe to the party ideology and understand the party's aims and objectives.

One must be a worker or a peasant, must not be a capitalist and should be able to articulate the party election manifesto which is normally the same document provided to every candidate.

As in the past, the elections this year have attracted some leading academics.



CDE SALIM

Thousands turn out