

Stop this

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debate -

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Kawawa

By PST Correspondent, Songea

Veteran politician and CCM doyen, Rashid Kawawa, has warned the party's politicians against discussing issues surrounding the presidential candidate for next year's general elections.

In an interview with *PST* yesterday, Kawawa said that time was not yet ripe for the party to discuss who would be the candidates for the 2005 presidential, parliamentary and civic elections.

Kawawa, who is one of the founding leaders of CCM, has also warned leaders of opposition parties against discussing the CCM presidential candidature for 2005, saying it is none of their concern.


He said it was unwise to waste time on discussing the race for next year's general elections now, instead of debating on development issues that affect the people.

He said the CCM constitution clearly stipulates the procedures and time for discussing and picking presidential and parliamentary candidates for general elections.


When time is ripe, CCM members and supporters would be allowed to discuss that issue in line with the laid down procedures, Kawawa said. He said there is a leader in CCM who had been violating party procedures by discussing the names of the possible candidates for the presidential race. He, however, would not mention the name.

Responding to recent claims that CCM had been grooming the former Secretary-General of Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Dr Salim Ahmen Salim, to contest for the presidency through the party's ticket, Kawawa said that was just a rumour. "I am not aware of anyone preparing Dr Salim to contest for the presidency. Who has picked him and under what procedure?" Kawawa queried. Commenting on the suggestion that the government has neglected the southern regions in terms of development, Kawawa responded in the negative.

He said this involved the implementation of development priorities rather than neglect.

 Wananchi

Maoni Yetu

 Wananchi

Hongera Mogella kwa wadhifa mpya

KWA mara nyingine Mtanzania amechaguliwa kukiongoza chombo cha kimataifa. Huyu ni Mbunge wa Ukerewe mkoani Mwanza, Getrude Mongella ambaye amechaguliwa kuwa Spika wa kwanza wa Bunge la Afrika.

Ingawa kwake hiyo mara ya kwanza kuteuliwa kukiongoza chombo cha kimataifa (aliongoza mkutano wa nne wa Umoja wa Mataifa kuhusu wanawake uliofanyika Beijing, China mwaka 1995), kuchaguliwa kwake juzi siyo heshima kubwa kwake tu, bali kwa Tanzania na Watanzania wote kwa ujumla.

Kwa mara nyingine Watanzania wamedhihirisha kwamba heshima waliyokuwa nayo katika duru za kimataifa kwa miaka mingi tangu uhuru hadi miaka ya mwanzo ya 1980 na ambayo ilikuwa imeanza kufifia, bado ipo.

Katika miaka mingi baada ya uhuru mwaka 1961, Tanzania kwa uongozi wa Baba wa Taifa, marehemu Mwalimu Nyerere ilijijengea heshima ya pekee kimataifa kutokana na msimamo wake wa kupinga ukoloni na kupigania ukombozi wa nchi nyingine na kutetea wanyonge duniani.

Ni msimamo ambao ulilifanya taifa liweze kuwa na nafasi ya pekee katika mikutano mbalimbali ya kimataifa ambako mawazo ya Tanzania yalikuwa yakipewa umuhimu mkubwa. Mchango wake katika masuala mbalimbali yaliyolihusu Bara la Afrika ni jambo lililo wazi kwa wengi.

Hivyo basi, kuchaguliwa kwa Mongella katika wadhifa huo mzito - hasa baada ya kupendekezwa na Nigeria na kupita bila kupingwa - ni kielelezo cha imani walioionyesha wabunge wa Afrika kwa uwezo wake na heshima kwa Tanzania.

Mongella ni mtu wa kimataifa ambaye licha ya kuongoza mkutano huo wa kimataifa juu ya wanawake huko Beijing, ameshahiriki pia katika mikutano mingi ya Umoja wa Mataifa na uliokuwa Umoja wa Nchi za Afrika (OAU) kwa nyadhifa tofauti.

Tunatambua kwamba kazi aliyopewa Mongella ni nzito ikizingatiwa kwamba hilo ni Bunge la kwanza la Bara la Afrika na kitu chochote kinapoanza ni lazima kitakabiliwa na matatizo ya kila aina.

Lakini kwa uzoefu alionao, hapana shaka kwamba Bunge la Afrika limepata Spika sahihi. Spika ambaye ataweza kuliongoza vizuri liweze kutekeleza majukumu makubwa yaliyo mbele yake, yenye lengo la kupambana na umaskini uliotukuka, na hatimaye kuhakikisha maendeleo mazuri ya uchumi wa wananchi wote wa Afrika.

Mongella Watanzania wote wanakuunga