

PUBLIC LECTURE BY
HON. DR. SALIM A. SALIM

WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE ECONOMIC SOCIETY OF TANZANIA
DR. JONAS P. KIPOKOLA

- Honourable Guest of Honour,
Dr. Salim A. Salim
Chairman of the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation
- Honourable Ministers/Members of Parliament, (if any)
- Distinguished Invited Guests
- Members of the Economic Society of Tanzania
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my honour and great pleasure to welcome you all, on behalf of the Economic Society of Tanzania, to this Public Lecture. We are here to benefit professionally as we hear from our Guest speaker, Hon. Dr. Salim A. Salim.

You have many times heard it said that "This man needs no introduction". Well, this evening I am defying that view; I am saying that this distinguished Tanzanian needs an introduction.

He needs an introduction because he is not the kind of person who trumpets his accomplishments. He won't tell you that he was an Ambassador at the age of 22. He won't tell you that as Tanzania's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, he was Chairman of the De-colonisation Committee of 24, and has been President of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

He won't tell you that he was Minister and Prime Minister of this country.

He won't even tell you that, as Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity, he steered the liberation of the continent from the last vestiges of oppression; he engineered the adoption of the African convention

on Human Rights, and the adoption of a Code of Conduct relating to non-recognition of African leaders who come to power through non-democratic means.

Hon. Salim A. Salim is involved in many issues that face our continent and our country, and is determined to do the best for all concerned. He believes that we are responsible for the welfare of our fellow men, that each individual can make a difference – in business, in the community, in the world.

And believe me, things have been happening since Hon. Dr. Salim assumed the position of Chairman of the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation a few months ago. For example, he has mobilized over T.Shs.300 million in fundraising for the Foundation, and presided over high level conferences for promotion of East African Regional cohesiveness.

So to repeat: Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim needs an introduction. He needs to know that we appreciate and admire his civic dedication, and contributions to making the world and our community a better place to live in.

And, yes, after twelve years as Secretary General of the OAU, he is the right person to inform us on the transition from OAU to AU. Africa has vowed to break with the past. What is the main objective of the change from OAU to AU? What is new? What happened to the African Economic Community that was launched in Abuja in 1991? What organs will be put in place?, etc.

Without further ado, please join me in welcoming our guest of honour and speaker Hon. Dr. Salim A. Salim.

Karibu Ambassador Salim Ahmed Salim.