

FEATURE: TANZANIA

Tanzania's left surges forward on a socialist tide



Julius Nyerere (top) was criticised for promoting corrupt officials. Aboud Jumbe (above) may eventually get the Presidency

Tanzania's left-wing came back in force in the CCM party elections. The new men in the central committee are all committed socialists refusing to be intimidated by Tanzania's economic troubles or the tough stance of the IMF.

TANZANIA'S SOLE ruling party, Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) has once again endorsed President Julius Nyerere's die-hard socialist stance. Both Nyerere and Zanzibari leader, Aboud Jumbe were re-elected to the top two party posts during the second general congress of CCM in Dar es Salaam.

Although the top echelons of the party remain virtually the same, the return to political prominence of former Premier, Rashid Kawawa as Secretary-General and the induction of young radicals into both the national executive and the central committees has pushed the political pendulum to the left.

The fire-breathing Rashid Kawawa, who was Prime Minister from 1962 to 1977 – bounced back as Number Three man in the party's hierarchy, after five years in relative obscurity as Minister of Defence and National Service and lately as Minister without portfolio.

Military politicians

The youngest, and probably the most educated, member of the central committee is Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Shija (36), the former assistant secretary-general of the TANU Youth League, who has risen from a district Commissioner of Kibondo. Next comes Foreign Minister, Salim Ahmed Salim (37), another radical who was inducted into the Cabinet two years ago. He attempted to run for the Secretary-Generalship of the United Nations last year.

Apart from his Ministerial post, Salim Salim will head the party's foreign affairs department, while Kingunge Ngombale-Mwiru (50), the self-confessed Marxist, heads the party's department of ideology and political training.

The Minister for Information and Culture, Daudi Mwakawago, a long time confidante of President Nyerere, was appointed to head the publicity and mass mobilisation department of the party.

Other members of the "inner cabinet" committee of the party include another former Premier, Edward Sokoine (44) who was appointed secretary to the newly established Defence and Security Commission to be headed by President Nyerere.

The only woman member of the commit-

tee, Gertrude Mongella (37) will head the social services department, while press secretary to President Nyerere, Paul Andreas Sozigwa (49) becomes secretary to the disciplinary sub-committee under Aboud Jumbe. The 45-year-old Moses Nnauye, the former Regional Commissioner for Coastal Region, was appointed head of the organisation department.

Observers in Tanzania say that the youthful Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Shija, who has meteorically risen from district level to the country's powerful central committee at a tender age, is tipped to go much further.

Apart from Colonel Shija, Foreign Minister Salim Ahmed Salim, who commands wide respect among the educated and the laymen alike, is having a smooth ride towards a top job in future. The 37-year-old diplomat is considered the obvious next leader of Zanzibar, should the ageing Aboud Jumbe step down.

Kawawa is also the obvious choice for the Vice-Presidency of both party and government, if Jumbe became President. Dr Nyerere at 60 may keep his 1980 promise not to contest for another term after the expiry of his present tenure in 1985.

Other members of the 18-man caucus include Nasser Moyo (49), Salmin Amour (40), Abdullah Natepe (51), Alfred Tandau (46) and Ali Mzee (43). Dr Nyerere and Jumbe (63) are automatic members of the central committee by virtue of their posts.

Power to the Left

The big question is whether the recent party elections have effectively placed political power in the hands of extreme left-wing radicals. An immediate resolution of this issue is unlikely since the moderates are about equal in numbers to the radicals. However, the general shift to a stronger Left is probably the result of the country's present economic malaise. The next five years are expected to produce a major tussle for power between the two camps.

Immediately after his re-election, Nyerere launched one of his rare attacks against critics of his socialist policies reiterating that there was nothing that would stop his poverty-stricken nation from treading the socialist

path. He said that pressure was being exerted on his government to change its socialist course. Last year, he specifically singled out the International Monetary Fund whom he accused of interference.

The Tanzanian leader's hardening stand was echoed by many delegates who debated his "Five years of CCM government" speech during the opening session on October 20.

"There are a few of us here and some outside this hall who were being swayed by capitalist Western propaganda which claims that our present economic problems stem from our socialist policies. Nonsense, even our neighbouring countries who are following capitalist systems are in the same boat as Tanzania," shouted Swalehe Musuri, a member from Singida region, one of the poorest areas in central Tanzania.

Nyerere criticised

The delegate almost embarrassed President Nyerere when he criticised him for promoting corrupt and inefficient officials from both the party and government: "A tendency has emerged where those who are confusing and dividing the people at district level are pushed up to hold higher posts at regional level and those bad elements from the region are transferred from there to the headquarters of the ruling party. This trend is also rampant in the government. Are we serious in building a classless society?" Musuri asked as other delegates cheered.

The Tanzanian leader who retains control of the armed forces in both the national executive and central committees, was strongly backed by Brigadier R.A. Kamazima, who said the army was ready to go to war again, this time not using their guns but hands to help in the economic reconstruction.



Baudi Mwakawago gives the clenched fist salute. He is now head of publicity and the mass mobilisation department of the CCM party

Since the inception of *Chama Cha Mapinduzi*, said delegates, Tanzania has been a victim of several misfortunes, some of which are beyond the grasp and control of the political leaders.

They cited the abrupt collapse of the East African Community in the very month that the CCM was being launched in Zanzibar, on 5 February 1977; the invasion of Tanzania by the maverick Ugandan regime of Idi Amin in 1978, the prolonged droughts that left many farmers dependent on imported food supplies and the world-wide recession that has curtailed produce revenue for many developing countries, as some causes of the present economic situation.

There is no doubt that the last five years of the CCM government has been unsatisfactory to Tanzanians from all walks of life. They have watched helplessly as shortages of essentials worsened without a foreseeable recovery in the economy and inflation rose to double figures.

Whatever happens, it will take another five years before Tanzanians again reconvene at the Diamond Jubilee Hall to elect



Salim Salim - the next Zanzibar leader?

another President of the party and they will then be able to judge whether the newly elected leaders had pushed the country farther left and further towards disaster.



Rashid Kawawa - the blazing firebrand is back as No. 3 in the party