

THE CITIZEN

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inside
politics

**TANZANIA: A CHAMPION
OF REINVENTING HERSELF**



**POPE BENEDICT
RECEIVES FIRST
HEAD OF STATE AT
THE VATICAN** pg 9

COMMENT	6
ANALYSIS	7
INTERNATIONAL	8
BUSINESS	21
SPORTS	25

It's down to three

Kikwete, Salim and Mwandosya advance, Malecela comeback bid rejected

By The Citizen team

The Chama Cha Mapinduzi last night gave three presidential aspirants the green light to proceed to the next stage in the race for the party's ticket.

Foreign Affairs minister Jakaya Kikwete, Nyerere Foundation chairman Dr Salim Ahmed Salim and Transport and Communications minister Prof Mark Mwandosya meet today in the final bout for the ruling party's flag.

Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye and Privatisation minister Dr Abdallah Kigoda lost their bids for scoring the lowest votes in the National Executive Council ballot.

Mr Kikwete led the pack of five with the highest number of votes (78), followed by Dr Salim (45), Prof Mwandosya (33) votes, Mr Sumaye (30) and Dr Kigoda with 21 votes. Out of 208 ballots, one was spoilt.

Mr Kikwete, Dr Salim and Prof Mwandosya vie for the top slot at the General Congress today. Each of the 1,800 delegates to the Congress will vote for one candidate, and the winner will carry the party in the October 30 General Election.

However, the winner must take at least half of the votes. If none of the three does, there will be a run-off poll between the two leading aspirants. Out of 1,800 delegates, the winner must take at least 901 votes.

For Zanzibar, President Amani Abeid Karume yesterday was endorsed to defend his seat for a second term. He was the sole candidate and the NEC delegates were voting either YES or NO. Out of 207 votes, one was spoilt, 11 were NO and 195 YES. The NEC meeting started at 2 pm and ended at 8 pm.

Meanwhile, a last-ditch attempt by CCM Vice Chairman John Malecela to rejoin the presidential race was defeated in Dodoma yesterday.

Stage set for final battle



Kikwete
78



Salim
45



Mwandosya
33

Mr Malecela, who was kicked out of the race by the Central Committee on Monday, yesterday protested to the National Executive Council that he had not been treated fairly.

In his protest, Mr Malecela wanted the NEC to overrule the Central Committee and reinstate his name on the list of final contestants.

The NEC, however, rejected the appeal and upheld the decision to

exclude him. After tabling his appeal before the NEC, Mr Malecela was asked to leave the hall so that members could discuss his case. The decision was then taken to reject the appeal. Mr Malecela's move opens a new era in CCM politics. According to the party constitution, the Central Committee has the final authority to allow or reject aspirants for any leadership post. Its decisions are never

challenged. Observers yesterday said that today may witness a repeat of the 1995 election phenomenon in which the delegates had to go in for a second round of voting before Mr Mkapa emerged victorious.

The 1995 aspirants were Mr Mkapa, Mr Kikwete and Cleopa Msuya. In the first-round vote, Mr Kikwete got the most votes but still short of 901. Mr Msuya got the least and was

dropped. The stage was set for a runoff between Mr Mkapa and Mr Kikwete.

In the vote, Mr Mkapa carried the day and went on to trounce his opponents from the opposition and become Tanzania's Third President.

As Tanzanians wait for the crucial ballot today, plans to unveil the CCM presidential candidate at Jamhuri Stadium tomorrow are complete.