



EFF STATEMENT ON THE UNVEILING OF STATUE HONOURING MWALIMU JULIUS KAMBARAGE NYERERE AT THE AFRICAN UNION HEADQUARTERS

Monday, 19 February 2024

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) celebrate, with immense pride, the unveiling of a statue honouring Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the former President of Tanzania, founding father of the Organisation of African Unity (now the African Union) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

This momentous occasion serves as a powerful reminder of his unmatched commitment to Pan-Africanism, liberation, and self-determination, values which remain crucial in our ongoing struggle for a united and prosperous Africa.

Nyerere led the struggle for independence against the British in Tanganyika and subsequently served as the President of Tanzania from 1964, when Tanganyika and Zanzibar merged to form the United Republic of Tanzania, until 1985. During his tenure, Nyerere implemented various policies aimed at social and economic transformation, including the Arusha Declaration of 1967, which laid the foundation for Tanzania's socialist development path.

His presidency was marked by a commitment to grassroots democracy under his policy of Ujamaa, which was centred around the empowerment of ordinary citizens, the promotion collective farming and communal living, as well as the establishment of Kiswahili as a unifying language. While these policies faced challenges and criticisms, they reflected Nyerere's vision of African socialism and his belief in the potential of rural communities to drive development.

Nyerere's leadership style was characterised by humility, integrity, and a deep sense of responsibility towards his people. He eschewed the trappings of power and lived modestly, earning him the respect and admiration of Tanzanians and leaders across the continent. Even after stepping down from the presidency, Nyerere remained active in African affairs, advocating for peace, democracy, and development until his passing in 1999.

Nyerere's support for anti-apartheid movements in South Africa and beyond was a cornerstone of his foreign policy during his presidency. Nyerere provided crucial support to the African National Congress (ANC) and other anti-apartheid movements, offering sanctuary to South African activists and providing material assistance to their cause. Tanzania became a hub for training and organising anti-apartheid fighters, exemplifying Nyerere's commitment to Pan-African solidarity and the liberation of all oppressed peoples.

The EFF echoes the resounding message conveyed by the AU Chairperson and other dignitaries at the unveiling ceremony: Nyerere's legacy lives on far beyond Tanzania's borders and continues to inspire movements for freedom and equality across the globe.

Therefore, let this statue serve as a constant reminder of the unfinished struggle for a truly liberated and united Africa. As the EFF, we remain committed to carrying the torch of African socialism lit by Nyerere, striving for an Africa free from exploitation and injustice, and achieving economic freedom in our lifetime.


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