

Introduction

“Uhuru na Kazi” (Freedom and Work) was the slogan of Tanganyika when it was struggling for, and marching towards, self-government. It is now increasingly being used as a form of salutation in Tanganyika.

Before October 1958, Tanganyika had a Civil Service Government without any direct representation in its Legislative Council or Executive Council. In March 1961, it was announced by Her Majesty’s Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr Iain Macleod, that Tanganyika would achieve full internal self-government on the 1st May 1961 and complete independence on the 28th December (later changed to 9th December) 1961. An advance of such magnitude in the space of such a short time is unique in the annals of colonial history. How did it all happen?

In this book I have tried to show how this was done. I have attempted to give a brief account of the political and constitutional advance of Tanganyika for the period July 1958 to March 1961. However, before I deal with this period, I think a short account of constitutional progress in Tanganyika may help the reader to understand the recent rapid developments, culminating in the achievement of full independence at the end of 1961.

Tanganyika is what is known as a trust territory. Before the 1914-18 war she was a German-occupied colony. After the 1918 war Tanganyika became a mandated territory under the League of Nations with Britain as the Administering Authority. After the 1939 war the United Nations took over Tanganyika from the League of Nations, and Britain continued as the Administering Authority of Tanganyika under the auspices of the United Nations. The Government of Tanganyika had to report every three years to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations in respect of its administration of Tanganyika, and a Visiting Mission from the Trusteeship Council used to visit Tanganyika at fixed intervals in order to study, at first hand, the conditions of this Trust Territory.

In 1938 Tanganyika was governed by an Executive Council which was composed entirely of officials, and a Legislative Council which was composed of official and unofficial members. The officials in the Legislative Council were the Governor and thirteen Civil Servants, and

the ten unofficials consisted of seven Europeans and three Asians, all nominated by the Governor. There were no Africans.

In 1947 the Executive Council, in addition to officials, contained four unofficials (three Europeans and one Asian) and these, of course, were also nominated by the Governor. In the Legislative Council, for the first time, there were three Africans who were nominated by the Governor. The number of officials in the Legislative Council then was fifteen, apart from the Governor, and the unofficials were in the proportion of seven Europeans, three Asians and three Africans. All these unofficials were nominated by the Governor.

In 1950 the Executive Council remained unchanged but the composition of the Legislative Council was altered slightly, making the number of nominated Asian and African members together equal to the nominated Europeans. Further changes took place and, in 1955, the Executive Council consisted of eight officials and six unofficials, the latter in the proportion of two Europeans, two Asians and two Africans. The Legislative Council now had a Speaker presiding over its deliberations instead of the Governor, and there were thirty-one members on the Government side, including fourteen unofficials (three Europeans, five Asians, four Africans and two Arabs). On the representative side—this was a new provision as this system of representation was to be the forerunner of elections in Tanganyika in due course—there were thirty members in the proportion of ten Europeans, ten Asians and ten Africans, and all these thirty were the nominees of the Governor. The representative members were collectively called TUMO—Tanganyika Unofficial Members Organisation. The unofficials on the Government side were known as NUMO—Nominated Unofficial Members Organisation.

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