



## Mwalimu Julius Nyerere for African liberation

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Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, the former and founding President of the United Republic of Tanzania, is known not only as one of the world's most respected leaders for African liberation and African dignity but also as an educator and an original and creative educational thinker. Before launching his political career, with the founding of the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) in 1954, he was a teacher. The concept of his role as a national leader included constant reassessment, learning, and explanation. Since Independence, and particularly since the year 1967, Tanzania has been something of a giant in-service seminar, with Nyerere in the professor's chair. Many features of his educational philosophy have universal relevance and have inspired many educators, and educational and development organizations around the world, because of his writings on educational philosophy and the intimate interaction between his political leadership and educational leadership for the country, he is respectfully referred to by the title of 'Mwalimu' by Tanzanians and others. 'Mwalimu', meaning 'teacher', Nyerere sought to cultivate a just society characterized by the interlocking principles of political independence (uhuru), unity (Umoja), development (maendeleo), socialism (ujamaa), and self-reliance (kujitegemea). It was because of his vision of, and commitment to, adult education that he was approached to become the Founding Honorary President of the International Council for Adult Education in 1973.

There is pretty much to talk about and learn from Mwalimu, His decision in 1985 to step down from power, did set the pattern of transition of power from one leader to the next. Since then, Tanzania has had 5 other presidents after him. It was based on his conviction that Tanzania sacrificed towards the liberation struggles of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa. This proves that Nyerere was a true believer of freedom of the people and his policies viewed all human beings as equal. He wanted Tanzania and Africa in general to try and become as much as self-reliant as they could be, this was in the fight against poverty, disease, and illiteracy. He was convinced that with skilled manpower, Tanzania could unlock much of the economic potential it has endowed with.

Mwalimu Nyerere was a believer in the government being accountable to the people. He wanted them to know what was happening within the government and that it truly served them.



Today as a youth leader, his leadership style that puts man at the center of all development initiatives is the one that inspires me most and helps me remember to not seek self-glory but the development of human beings.