Emmanuel Francis: The Prospects and Challenges of the Union Between Tanganyika and Zanzibar
PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES OF THE UNION BETWEEN TANGANYIKA AND ZANZIBAR

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Let me start by giving the meaning of a union. There is a union when two or more things are joined together, sometimes for a specific purpose. As regards countries, a union means the joining of two or more countries to achieve a political, economic, social or any other goal. The unified countries form one law which will be used to control all of those countries which have been joined together. This law is known as the constitution. The constitution is the mother law or the supreme law of the land. It controls and regulates all people in the unified countries.

Let me now turn to the discussion of the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar which was formed on 26 April 1964.

The union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar was formed by two leaders namely Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere and Abeid Amani Karume. They signed some sort of a treaty to form one country called TANZANIA. The Union followed the revolution of Zanzibar which occurred on 12 January 1964 whereby the people of Zanzibar overthrew the sultanate.

On the Union day, the two leaders exchanged soil as a symbol to join the two countries. The aim of the union was to expand business and bring unity. Mwl. Julius K. Nyerere became the President and Sheikh Abeid Aman Karume became the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Then a Union Constitution of 1964 was enacted. This resulted from the Articles of the Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar. The Constitution put together Union Matters.
However, during the making of this constitution members of the public were not consulted. The Constitution was made by members of TANU and ASP. However, the union had positive aspects. For example it promoted education and economy.

As far as leadership is concerned the union is not well balanced. Up to now, only one Zanzibari, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, has become the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, while three Tanganyikans have held that position. This is one of the weaknesses of the Union.

After the Union, two parties where joined together to form one party. These parties were TANU and ASP. They were joined to form Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM). Since its formation CCM has ruled the Union. It has also been responsible for making the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977.

That Constitution only contains the ideas of members of CCM. It does not contain opinions of the people or the majority. But we know that a good constitution is that which contains the opinion of the people or the majority.

We are supposed to enjoy the fruits of the Union. However, that enjoyment is limited by the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977. Our fore leaders who formed the Union aimed at promoting such things as the economy and education. They had a good purpose of controlling the country very well. However, although there are many things which are good in this union, there are challenges and weakness of this union. Let us see some of these particularly relevant for this year (2015).
As we celebrate the Union this year, the Union turns 51 years old. On this year’s celebration let us remember our fore leaders who used their education and skills to form and maintain the Union very well. This Union used to be a role model in unifying Africa. These leaders put people together and taught them how to protect peace and security. They also provided infrastructures in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

The union now has many issues. The biggest of all is the issue of land. As we know Zanzibar has a small land to conduct activities such as agriculture. After the formation of the union, people from both sides enjoyed the fruits of the union on matters concerning land. However, now there are many complaints concerning land in both sides of the union.

Another aim of this union was to protect peace and security. Through unity it was thought that the country would be secured. However, as we celebrate the 51st birthday of the Union, there are many things which affect our country as far as peace and security is concerned. Measures must be taken to ensure that the upcoming elections are conducted peacefully and threats or actual violence from terrorists are prevented. We must prevent groups like Alshabab to attack us.

Moreover, as we celebrate the 51st birthday of the Union, eligible citizens should register as voters so as to take part in the upcoming general election and the Referendum. The general election will be conducted in October.

Also we are in the process of enacting a new constitution. But there are many misunderstandings which occurred in the process as we
know the good constitution must be enacted by following the proper procedure. A constitution is an important document in many ways. For example it contains the Bill of Rights and other key matters. It is the supreme law of the country. In other words it is the mother law of the land.

As I said there have been some misunderstandings in the process of making the new constitution. There were two blocks which emerged in the Constituent Assembly. These were TANZANIA KWANZA and UKAWA. TANZANIA KWANZA consisted of the members from CCM, while UKAWA (Umoja wa Katiba ya Wananchi) consisted of members from CHADEMA, CUF, NCCR MAGEUZI and NLD. The main issue of concern was the number of Governments. It is my advice that this misunderstanding should not divide the country. In my opinion, the views of the citizens should not have been ignored because the Constitution is “WE PEOPLE”.

My general view is that the Union should not consist of two ties with full authorities. Such a Union cannot survive. There should be one government which has full control within the Republic.

Happy Union Day!