1. **Background history of the Union**

The United Republic of Tanzania was formed on 26th April, 1964**.** After the Union, the late Mwl. Julius Kambarage Nyerere became the first President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Sheikh Abeid Karume became the First Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania and the President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council. The late Rashidi Mfaume Kawawa became the second Vice President of Tanzania and leader of Government business in the National Assembly.

In 1992, Tanzania adopted a Multiparty Democracy System which necessitated major Constitutional amendments. These amendments addressed the issue of Vice President and the system of running mate was introduced that paired a presidential and Vice Presidential candidate. This meant that, the President of Zanzibar ceased being an automatic Vice President of the Union but became a member of the Union Cabinet.

Article 47(2) of the Constitution of United Republic of Tanzania stipulates that, the Vice President shall be elected in the same general election with the President after being nominated by his/her Political Party. That is, when the Presidential candidate is elected then the Vice President will automatically be elected.

Also Article 47(3) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania provides that, when the Presidential candidate is hailing from one side of the Union then the Vice President shall be appointed from the other side of the Union.

These Constitutional amendments eliminated the posts of First and Second Vice President the President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar ceased to be the Vice President in the Union Government.

Consequently, the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977, was amended by Act no. 34 of 1994 and established the office of the Vice President.

3. **The Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar: Historical Overview**

The history of the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar is undoubtedly unique. These two States agreed to unite for the benefit of all Tanzanians. The Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar has been the building block for the establishment of the East African Community and ultimately the proposed United States of Africa.

Like other African countries, the people of Tanganyika opposed and fought against colonial invaders from the very beginning. Just like in many other African colonies, the feelings of nationalism continued to grow stronger after 1945. Immediately after the First World War, symbols of nationalism became evident. This included the formation

of African Associations in both Tanganyika and Zanzibar. The African Association was established in Tanganyika in 1929 as a debate club between intellectuals. This association was transformed into the Tanganyika African Association (TAA) in 1948. After the Second World War, members of the Tanganyika African Association pioneered the nationalist struggle.

In 1953 under the leadership of Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, TAA was recognised as a political party and was transformed into the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) in 1954, where it became fully involved in the nationalist struggle for independence. After seven years of political struggle, Tanganyika gained its independence under TANU, which was strengthened by workers and cooperative unions.

On Zanzibar's part, the various football clubs established in the early 1930s provided the basis for the coming together of members of the African community. By 1934, members of the African community united in a formal organisation known as the African Association (AA). Like elsewhere in the world, Zanzibar was hit by severe food shortages, discrimination and disunity in society after the Second World War.

The prevailing discrimination encouraged members of the Persian "Shirazi" community to form the Shirazi Association in Unguja and Pemba Islands to fight for their social rights and recognition. The formation of the Zanzibar Nationalist Party (ZNP) in 1955 forced leaders of the African Association and the Shirazi Association to unite since the colonial government had been working with the ZNP to suppress Africans. In 1957, the Shirazi Association and African Association united to form the Afro-Shirazi Party under the leadership of Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume.

Between 1957 immediately after the first general elections and towards the end of 1963 before the 1964 revolution, Zanzibar was troubled by political factionalism. This political struggle was between the Afro-Shirazi Party, which was backed by the majority population of Africans and the Zanzibar Nationalist Party, which was being supported by colonialists.



The President of Zanzibar Sheikh Abeid Aman Karume in picture immediately after the revolution in 1964.

At the height of political tensions between ASP and ZNP, the Zanzibar and Pemba People's Party (ZPPP) was formed in 1959, which was a splinter group from the Afro-Shirazi Party and Sheikh Muhammed Shamte was appointed as Chairman .

While the ASP, ZNP and ZPPP were engaged in political wrangling, the colonial government made plans for a second election. The election was held on 16 January, 1961 and a day before the election, the colonial government announced that the party that wins the election would have the mandate to form its own government and control all government ministries. In the election, ASP won 10 seats, ZNP and ZPPP got nine and three seats respectively.

The main political parties reached a decision to end the political hatred among Zanzibaris. Since ASP did not get more than half of the seats, it could not form its own government. The ZPPP and ZNP united and formed their coalition. However, it was agreed that a transitional government would be formed and another election held in June 1961.

The British government established racial segregation in Zanzibar by favouring Whites, Indians and Arabs in that particular order as the upper classes and Africans became the lowest class. The British government granted independence to Zanzibar on 10 December 1963, to a party which was supported by the Sultan. The British

government's decision to hand sovereignty to the Sultan angered the majority African population in Zanzibar. On 12 January, 1964, the Sultan was overthrown in a Revolution that had been carefully, courageously and secretly planned by members from the Afro-Shirazi Party and the People's Republic of Zanzibar was proclaimed.



Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere and Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume sign the Articles of the Union agreement.

The Republic of Tanganyika and the People's Republic of Zanzibar entered into union agreement in 1964 to form a new sovereign state of the United Republic of Tanzania. The agreement for the unification of the two states was signed by the first President of Tanganyika, the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, and the first Zanzibar President, the late Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume, on 22 April, 1964, in Zanzibar.



Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere and Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume exchanging the Articles of the Union in 1964.

The Articles of the Union was ratified by Tanganyika's Parliament and the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council on 26 April, 1964. On 27 April, 1964, the leaders of the two countries exchanged legal documents of the Union at the Karimjee Hall in Dar es Salaam. The Articles of the Union declared the formation of the United Republic in Section 4 as follows:

"*The Republic of Tanganyika and the Peoples' Republic of Zanzibar shall be united in one Sovereign Republic to form the Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar*"

On 28 October, 1964, the Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar was renamed as United Republic of Tanzania through the United Republic (Declaration of Name) Act number 61 of 1964.

This is a Union of a two tire system of Governments; the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, which is Sovereignty to deal with all Union matters and non-Union matters in Mainland Tanzania as stipulated in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977 (As Amended) and the Revolutionary Government Zanzibar, which deals with non-Union matters in Tanzania Zanzibar.

Reasons for the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar were the following:

1. The people of Tanganyika and Zanzibar have historically enjoyed very close relations in various areas, including family ties, trade, culture, language and political interactions.
2. A strong spirit of African unity has prevailed, especially with the formation of the East African Community as a building block for the establishment of the proposed United States of Africa. Even before Tanganyika achieved its independence, Mwalimu Nyerere and other leaders in East Africa who were fighting for the liberation of the continent from colonialists were determined to achieve African unity.

3. Mwalimu Nyerere personally advocated for African unity starting with the formation of regional economic groupings as the building blocks. Following consultations with various leaders from the then Pan-African Freedom Movement for East and Central Africa (PAFMECA), Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, issued the following statement at the conference of independent African states in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1960:

"Many of us agree without pretences or inhibitions that the East African Federation will be a good thing. We have stated this, and it remains true, that the borders separating our countries were put in place not by ourselves but by imperialists. Therefore, we should not allow them to be used against our unity ... we must persistently knock at the offices of the colonialists not to demand the independence of Tanganyika, then Kenya and Uganda and finally Zanzibar, but we must do it to demand the independence of East Africa as one political federation." (**Source: The Tanganyika Standard newspaper, November 1964)**.

The United Republic of Tanzania is the result of a theory being put into action, since the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar was made possible by a determined and honest people. The Union serves as living proof of the fact that the people of Tanganyika and Zanzibar under their leaders meant what they spoke and were not just making political rhetoric.



The Map of the United Republic of Tanzania showing the geographical territory