

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY A, MILTON OBOTE, AT ISHAKA, BUSHENYI DISTRICT
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETURN TO UGANDA FROM EXILE: MAY 27TH, 1980**

TIME: 4.00 P.M.

DR. OBOTE'S CALL	BUSHENYI
UPC	UPC
UPC	UPC
UPC	UPC
EVERYBODY	UPC
EVERYONE	UPC
AT BUSIIENYI	UPC
AT KABALE	UPC
RUKUNGIRI	UPC
KASESE	UPC
KABAROLE	UPC
HOIMA	UPC
MASINDI	UPC
ARUA	UPC
NEBBI	UPC
MOYO	UPC
MUBENDE	UPC
KITGUM	UPC
GULU	UPC
APAC	UPC
LIRA	UPC
KOTIDO	UPC
MOROTO	UPC
SOROTI	UPC
KUMI	UPC
MBALE	UPC

KAPCHORWA	UPC
TORORO	UPC
IGANGA	UPC
JINJA	UPC
KAMULI	UPC
LUWERO	UPC
WHAT ABOUT MUKONO	UPC
AND KAMPALA	UPC
AND KAMPALA	UPC
AND MASAKA	UPC
RAXAI	UPC
KBARARA	UPC
OH BUSHENYI	UPC
AND MPIGI	UPC
ALL UGANDA	UPC
THANK YOU.	UPC

Fellow citizens.

We are gathered this afternoon to speak about the truth.

It is more than nine years since I was last amongst you on the soil of Uganda.

I stand humbly before you today in a country ravaged, plundered and devastated for over eight years by the brutal and monstrous regime of Idi Amin. I am deeply conscious of the untold suffering and misery inflicted on the people of our country by the monster Amin and his henchmen. His attempt to enslave the entire nation, brutalise and torture countless number of our people with the help of traitors, mercenaries and other foreign agents have left a scar on our nation which will not be easy to erase.

"But today at this rally we meet. This rally therefore, is part of victory celebrations by the people of Uganda and while we celebrate our Victory against the forces of evil we must also at the same time mourn for those who are no longer with us. We mourn hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children who became victims of the regime of terror and destruction.' We mourn the gallant sons of Uganda and Tanzania who shed their blood in active combat against the forces of evil and many others who risked and sacrificed their lives in the hope that the people of Uganda may in future live in freedom and prosperity. I would like to ask the people of Uganda and all gathered here to stand up and observe a three minute silence in respect of the dead:

Then I would like the choir to sing for us the national anthem:

The liberation of Uganda last year gave us a new lease of life and it also gave us an opportunity to bury our past differences and build a new nation based on unity, peace and prosperity, and to erect democratic institutions. It afforded us opportunity to rid our nation of tribal and religious frictions which in the past were the main cause of our downfall and led our country into the darkest chapter of its history.

One would have naturally assumed that what happened in Uganda over the past nine years will have taught us a permanent lesson and instilled in our people a new sense of unity and the seal to closely guard our newly won freedom.

However, in just a year since our liberation, personal ambition and greed of some of our leaders have once again given vent to all the petty bickering which in the past contributed,

with such vengeance, to the fragmentation of our society and enabled Amin to easily gain and consolidate his control of our country and to create unprecedented havoc.

I call upon all the people of Uganda to heed the fact that it is only through disunity that such calamities can occur and, looking at the state of our country today, we must all recognize how difficult it is to undo what history has done.

Let us also not forget the importance of self-reliance, be it for our future prosperity or personal security. For whilst Amin and his bandits were plundering our material resources, desecrating our cultural heritage and carrying out what was tantamount to a genocide in Uganda, the whole entire World - except Tanzania, Zambia, Somalia, Botswana and the Sudan - the whole world accepted it and just watched. Indeed most of the countries maintained diplomatic relations and some not only carried on trading but sold to this butcher, no doubt at exorbitant prices, weapons and other electronic gadgets to carry out his massacres more efficiently. Nearer^ home the OAU honoured the monster by holding its summit meeting in Kampala in 1975 and appointing him its Chairman for a whole year. Since liberation, I have been hearing a lot about the Commonwealth. Listen to the record of the Commonwealth during our darkest days. It took the Commonwealth more than six years of continuous murders- before the Commonwealth felt obliged to condemn the happenings in Uganda at Its Conference in 1977. It is ironic that after all the notifications by the leaders of our so called civilized world about the horror and atrocities committed by Hitler during the second world (gr, no leader of any major power felt compelled to put an end to similar atrocities committed by the monster in Uganda in the last quarter of the twentieth century.

In the end even when a small nation - Tanzania with meagre resources decided to act and help to restore the conscience of the civilized world it was left to fight and bear the cost on its own.

Fellow citizens, no matter who writes history and where it is written, the Ugandan tragedy must go down as one of the most shameful events in the recent history of the world.

Let us, therefore, get the power of credence and here- and now, let us decide that never again shall we allow a situation to develop in our country which through disunity would enable any individual or, for that matter, a group of-. People to wrest control of our country, destroy our democratic institutions, plunder our natural resources or temper with the freedom and personal liberty of our citizens.

Now, having declared what may appear painful to some but what remains an irrefutable historical fact. I do not want anyone to misunderstand and think that we Ugandans are going to carry on a vendetta against the world or any country in particular. We are liberated now and let us proclaim loud and clear that as far as we are concerned the past is now firmly behind us. We do not harbour ill-feelings towards any country or organization indeed we take this opportunity to extend the hand of friendship to all nations big or small, rich or poor.

We are extending the hand of friendship to all our neighbours: Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, Zaire and Rwanda. We extend the hand of friendship. We must pledge and do hereby pledge ourselves to working with all of them either bilaterally or collectively in the spirit of good neighbourliness, respect of each other's sovereignty and in the spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation.

In the same vein we are extending the hand of friendship to all the member states of the OAU and to all non-aligned countries. We stand firmly behind the two bodies, embrace their principles and shall play our part in the advancement of their respective ideals. We extend the hand of friendship to all the Commonwealth countries.

We pledge ourselves to regain a true member of the family. We must extend the hand of friendship to all the member states of the United Nations.

We affirm that our liberation has helped and, once we stabilize the situation In Uganda, it will improve the security of nations in our part of the world and throughout Africa. We extend the hand of friendship to all the people who are still engaged in the liberation of their respective countries. We consider cur own liberation as also their liberation and we certainly regard their struggle as our struggle and shall give them moral and material assistance to the utmost of our ability.

Lastly but not least we extend our hand of friendship to all who are engaged in the field of news media. We look forward to objective and sympathetic reporting.

We plead with all our neighbours, with members of the OAU, the non-aligned nations, the Commonwealth countries, the UN member states and the news media and ask them for just one thing: please give us a chance to find our own bearings and to resolve our own problems in our own way.

To all the people of Uganda I fervently urge that we all join hands together in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of our country. We must jointly ensure the security of Uganda. We must work together to remove from our society any semblance of the dastardly killings and fear which has numbed us. The task to provide security for all of us does not rest with the government alone, it also rests with all of us collectively and individually. Let us resolve today to report to the authorities anyone in illegal possession of arms and ammunitions. Let us resolve not to harbour any criminal but to report the same to the authorities.

Now, with the war and the rule of terror behind us, we the people of Uganda must wake up to the formidable challenges and daunting tasks which now envelop our society. The greatest of the challenges we have to surmount is the liberation of our minds so that we may be able to see the enemy clearly. The liberation of Uganda from the rule of murder is meaningless unless we embark without delay in combating another arch enemy namely, poverty, ignorance and disease. But first we must eliminate lawlessness from our society. The war of liberation was not fought so that the people of Uganda may continue to lose their lives at the hands of criminals. That war was not fought so that poverty, ignorance and disease should reign supreme in Uganda. The war of liberation was fought so that all the people of Uganda - all tribes, may live in harmony and in peace and prosperity. Let us get that firmly in our minds.

The war was fought so that all Ugandans irrespective of tribe or religion may walk tall in their own country and free of any fear of losing their lives or property. The war was fought and won so that the people of Uganda may be able to establish and maintain democratic institutions for their well-being.

The most startling phenomenon which has come to light since liberation is the fact that some of our leaders vigorously sought to regard and to treat gallant sons of Uganda and Tanzania who fought in the war of liberation as enemies. Worse still, those same leaders did everything possible though in vain to regard and to treat Amin's gangsters as friends. It would seem to me that some of our people have been so used to the oppressive conditions under Amin that they have lost all capacity to differentiate good from bad. The seriousness of anyone regarding Amin's thugs as friends lies in the attempts to incite tribes to hate tribes or to incite Ugandans to hate Tanzanians. Fellow citizens, I do not need to sound a warning as to the danger ahead if such an attitude is persisted upon. It was exactly such incitement which enabled Amin to consolidate his rule of terror.

In my view, to regard Amin's gangsters as friends or to incite tribe against tribe is a crime against all the people of Uganda. I call upon all never to be deceived or misled and I say that all the people of Uganda have a common destiny. We shall either live or perish together. There is no other way. We either live, or perish together.

How, when I speak against Amin and his fellow gangsters, I do not want to be misunderstood by anybody. I do not speak against any tribe. Amin's gangsters and supporters came from all tribes of Uganda. We fought the gangsters and their arch-leader Amin. We did not fight the tribes of the gangsters nor Amin's tribe. We fought those who adopted the policy of destruction in order to plunder Uganda and to perpetuate themselves as our rulers. Every tribe suffered death and torture under Amin. The destruction of the economy and social services affected all tribes. The resulting poverty can be seen in all parts of Uganda. Any programme, therefore for the reconstruction and rehabilitation must be a programme for the reconstruction of Uganda as a whole and the rehabilitation of all the people of Uganda.

I have said that there is an urgent need for all of us to liberate our minds so as to be able to recognize our true enemy. That need is both a challenge and a lesson to all Ugandans. It is a challenge because it is disturbing that after nearly eighteen years of independence there are still many amongst us who do, not recognize a Ugandan but only a tribesman. It is a lesson because we all ought to have learnt something from the bitter experience of the Amin's era.

We all know that when Amin first embarked on his devilish mission to kill citizens of Uganda he laid emphasis on the necessity to kill soldiers who were from Acholi and Lango.

It did not take him long to extend his monstrous mission to cover all the tribes of Uganda. The lesson is clear: destruction of the whole comes easily when one breaks ranks.

How then do we close our ranks. The answer was given at Moshi, Tanzania, last year at a conference of Uganda exiles.

The answer is tolerance and reconciliation as the new base of the new Uganda. Without tolerance and reconciliation, the people of Uganda shall for long not be in peace and all our efforts in every direction will be in vain and only result in misery. We have had ample warning during the past year since liberation. After over eight years of sufferance under a most brutal regime we were not able after liberation to sustain a stable government. In a period of twelve months, we have had

three governments- We shall for long have a shaky government, unstable conditions and lawlessness unless we learn to tolerate and reconcile with one another.

Our next challenge is to get rid of Magendo and corruption out of the system of government and society. These evils came into being during there in regime, but have continued since liberation. The common man' may think he is helpless and cannot combat these evils. I say that he is not helpless. I also say that he can combat magendo and corruption. The greatest weapon in combating magendo and corruption is the vote do not vote for .any corrupt person. Do not vote for a. person who has caused considerable misery to the people of Uganda through magendo and corruption when you meet such persons at meetings, seminars or at rallies such as the one we are having today, I urge you to shun their company and to refuse to associate with them. It is also your duty to expose such persons without fear or favour. The loot with which they have enriched themselves is the common property of all the people of Uganda. No one has the right to loot our country and to remain as a leader.

Due to the existence of corruption in our society, the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the economy and social services began, after liberation, on a fundamentally wrong premises. This was the. belief of the first and second of UNLF governments that the greater of fort in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Uganda must come from outside the country. In practice this meant that the people of Uganda were literally to wait for manna from heaven. Many of you here are married couples. You know fully well that there is no friend in your communities who would provide you and your family with food, clothing and other essential commodities and who will do so week after week, month after month, and year after year- There comes a time when that friend finds you a burden and leaves you In destitution. Yet, that eventually was the strategy of our recent two governments.

The two UNLF governments since liberation devoted most of their time on two matters. The first was the politics of intrigues instead of positive policies for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Uganda and in direct contradiction to the fundamental achievements of the Moshi Conference - tolerance and, reconciliation. The second matter was that the two governments devoted much of their thinking and actions in seeking for foreign aid for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Uganda. I must say that we welcome any form of foreign aid, be it governmental or private, but I would be deceiving you all by saying that such aid will suffice in must be to mobilise the resources

of the country, human and material as the corner stone for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of our country. Let all friends abroad give us the tools, we shall do the job.

We have lost a full year since liberation. Our rich soil remains untilled and our numerous cattle population remain diseased and not cared for. Our major crops such as coffee, cotton and tea remain partly unharvested and the remainder rot in the godowns for lack of organisation to transport the same to world markets, in some cases these precious commodities have been smuggled by people in authority to enrich themselves at the expense of the producers and the entire nation. Thus no wonder there is famine in some parts of the country and shortages of all essential commodities in all parts of the country.

As regards our industry, resources which used to cover the manufacture of such goods as clothing, cement, cooking oil, sugar, soap, glass and steel have not been rehabilitated and the whole year has been wasted without any concrete plans and as such they are left unproductive till today.

I have not been in Uganda for over nine years but delegations from all parts of the country have regularly visited me in Tanzania. They told me of the plight of the people, of shortages of basic commodities such as sugar, salt, cooking oil and soap. Worse still, I was told that many people including the youth in schools went only in rags and lack of clothing may be one of the reasons why this rally is not attended by as many as the people of Uganda would have wished.

While many of the people of Uganda are walking in rags, clothing materials have been steadily imported to Uganda from particularly Hong Kong and Taiwan. Those materials were immediately re-exported to a neighbouring state and some of our leaders pocketed all the proceeds.

On May Day this year, the President of Uganda was at Mbale.

His rally was attended by less than a thousand people. It was stated in public by a government official and in the presence of the President that the attendance was poor because the people of Bugisu had an acute shortage of food. It did not surprise those Ugandans who were at the rally that the President did not address himself to the cries of the people for food as stated by the government official, you will remember that in March of this year the same President had declared at a seminar held at Makerere that he was not to be "disturbed".

As we gather here today people are actually dying in the region of Karamoja and parts of Teso due to famine. I am told that some rice - and rice is not the staple food of the Karamojong - was brought to the country. This rice never reached Karamoja. It was sold through the magendo system and some of the leaders enriched themselves with all the proceeds.

I know that Mulago which used to be one of the greatest teaching hospitals in Africa and once a place to which people came from far and wide for specialised treatment is now in shambles. It once boasted, and rightly so, of the finest and up to date medical equipment and experienced and most competent staff. Now Mulago lacks both and is unable to function even at the level of a district hospital. Our great network of hospitals and dispensaries which my government built and improved throughout the country are either closed completely or properly for lack of equipment, drugs and staff.

Those of you who are not too young will remember my personal and passionate attachment to the youth of Uganda. I am glad to report that even as a refugee I was able to arrange with a number of governments educational facilities up to university level and in some cases post-graduate courses for Ugandan students. In this respect extend particular gratitude to the governments of Tanzania and Zambia.

Uganda of tomorrow will be the responsibility of the youth today. These young men and women are the responsibility of the entire State of Uganda. They must be prepared to shoulder the responsibilities of consolidating our national independence and to open more and more avenues which will lead the people of Uganda to the real goal, economic and social independence.

I have been highly perturbed to learn that our schools some of which were the finest in Africa and to which our children once went well fed and smartly dressed are only partially functional, once again for lack of qualified staff and scholastic equipment. Some children who still do attend schools go without proper means and others are ashamed to go because they are in rags. Their teacher, I am told, also go in rags. This state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue.

This then briefly is the legacy of Amin's rule and the state of affairs in our country even after a year since the liberation. This is what people choose to hide when they have the temerity to criticize the nine years of my government.

Some have even suggested that Amin was my creation when I only appointed him to a military post just as I appointed thousand others to jobs in the army and the civil service. It was not I who invited him to take over the country; he seized it illegally and through the force of guns but with much support and jubilation, at the time, from these very people who make these ridiculous accusations against me personally and sometimes against the UPC.

I want now to take this opportunity to refer to one persistent and malicious propaganda which has emanated, from different quarters at different times, both at home and from abroad that I am not acceptable to the people of Buganda. This has always mystified me for all through my political career I have always regarded myself and indeed acted as an African and a Ugandan. I have had the privilege of heading a party - the Uganda Peoples Congress - which, as you all know, recognizes no barriers based on race, tribe or religion. All people of Uganda played an active role and hold office in the party including the Buganda.

I also had the privilege of heading the Government of Uganda for no less than nine years. During this period some of the prominent and influential Kin Is torn in my government were Buganda just as they were prominent in the civil service, diplomatic service and in the various parastatal organisations in the country. In fact, if anything, they took a somewhat larger share of high positions in the country, but as far as X was concerned they were Ugandans and I appointed them to these positions purely on merit.

At a personal level, as you are no doubt aware my wife, the mother of my four sons, is a Muganda- so how dare these propagandists persist in this fallacy. Also there are some malicious people who in the past and for that matter even today seek to divide us on the basis of religion This I find particularly distasteful for as Ugandan we are one people, free to practice our different religions is we desire and no person should allow himself to be divided from his brothers and sisters because of one's religious faith. Personally I come from a large family some members of which are Catholics and Moslems whilst others are Protestants. We have all lived together happily and have never found this as a reason -for any friction.

I personally never have and will never subscribe to any ideas that seek to divide us on religious and tribal basis. We have, ns it is, an enormous task of rehabilitation and reconstruction ahead of us and if I am to play any role in future it will have to be as a Ugandan and with the support and active participation of the majority of the people of Uganda irrespective of tribe or religion.

Throughout my nine years of exile I have sat patiently and quietly through a constant barrage of propaganda against my person and my record as a national leader engendered both by some people at home and by their friends and supporters abroad.

I am not one who is opposed to constructive criticism for me, do not believe that any politician is infallible, but -much of this propaganda has been both malicious and ill- informed. Even public and was 1 documented facts were deliberately distorted to project me as biased and authoritarian and my nine years in government as negative. According to the manufacturers of this propaganda there was nothing achieved during nine years of my leadership in Uganda that was good and just. Some of these people' were encouraged to fabricate more and more lies due to my silence, a silence which was not because of lack of defence against their lies but out of sheer respect for my host and his country which very kindly provided a refuge for myself and my family. It would not have been proper for me to abuse Tanzania's hospitality by engaging in a slanging match with the perpetrators of these lies' also I had confidence in the people of Uganda who I knew would recognise the truth and never believe in these cheap and ridiculous lies.

Today I do not want to go into very great details but let us just very briefly examine the facts,

I was elected by you the people of Uganda to head the first independent government of Uganda in 1962, The problems of running the: government of a developing country even after years of independence is fraught with numerous problems but taking over and running a poor country at its birth is universally acknowledged to be complex and. very formidable.

My problems in Uganda were further compounded by the fact that when I took over in 1962 we had no less than five parliaments and five governments and five high courts of one form or another. It was during my time that Uganda, for the first time in its history, became one nation with one parliament, one government and one people. This may or may not mean much to outsiders but in view of our geographical situation as a landlocked country, size of our population and in the context of conditions then prevailing in our country it was a major achievement and an absolute pre-requisite to any rapid progress in the social and economic field.

During the nine years when I had the privilege of running our affairs some cataclysmically chances were achieved in the social and-economic fields. Even a cursory look at the cold statistics of those years will reveal the enormous gains made in education, health, the development of infrastructure

and in industry and agriculture. We sustained a healthy growth rate generally and our GNP rose steadily and faster when judged in the African context. The literacy rate was more than doubled and so was the purchasing power of our people as a whole. We took measures and succeeded in bringing our entire population into the cash economy and extended basic public and social services to every corner of the country.

We took steps to rectify past imbalances of economic development and Instituted systems which ensured eruptible development in different parts of the country. We greatly increased our output of cash crops and doubled, in some cases trebled our industrial output, we encouraged and indeed assisted indigenious Ugandans to, for the first time, capture the commanding heights of industry both through the public and the private sectors. We took steps to bridge the income gap between the different sections of our people which made a sure start towards a just and equitable society which in turn inculcated greater harmony amongst our people, Indeed Uganda during my time enjoyed a society in which not only people of different tribes lived harmoniously but also a very large number of Asians and Europeans worked and lived happily in Uganda. In this context let me repeat, what I said at the time, that the method employed by Amin's ^regime to expel over 50,000 Asians many of whom were citizens born and bred locally and had played a very useful role in the economic life of our country and which included many children and sick and elderly people was a blatantly racial and an inhumane act.

My fellow citizens when I left Uganda I left behind a system of parliamentary government, a judiciary that was independent of the executive and a Ugandan sod civil service and a police force which was well trained, disciplined and enforced law and order throughout the land in securing personal safety of the people and their property. My government was a clean government and despite numerous commissions which Amin established with a view to discrediting my government and finding some semblance of corruption none was found. Indeed no one has ever successfully levelled any charges of corruption against my government which practiced none. This is important in the light of what happens in many developing countries and particularly as corruption became such a hallmark of Amin's regime and indeed of the two governments that succeeded after his downfall in Uganda.

I left behind an educational and health system that was the envy of the rest of Africa, I left behind shops that were full 1 to the brim with not only basic commodities but other inquisites not only in

the cities but even in the remote villages of Uganda. It was a common boast during my time that one could walk into any shop in Kampala and buy whatever one may be able to buy in a similar shop in (London, Paris or New York).

When Amin staged the COUP with the support of traitors, every, good thing rapidly became an item for destruction. I recall vividly my surprise when some sections of the media were extolling his virtues and referring to him as the "gentle giant of Africa". I also recall when the immediate past president of Uganda Mr. Godfrey Binaisa expressed the total opinion of those who welcomed Amin. He said that it was not that Amin loved Obote less but that Amin loved Uganda more. In simple language he was saying, like some others were saying at the time, that Amin was going to do wonders in Uganda because Amin loved Uganda more than anyone else. They soon discovered the nature of Amin's love for Uganda - the tragedy is, it led not only those lovers of Amin but the whole nation and the entire country towards the path of destruction and ruination.

These, fellow citizens, are not the words of a bitter man I do not seek revenge nor do I advocate retribution against any individual them as a warning lest someone .attempts to mislead us ever again. We shall give forgiveness for what has happened in the past, but we must never forget. It.

We must now devote our total attention and energy to rehabilitating our country. There must be less talk and more action. We must overcome the inertia and general apathy which together with petty bickering has lost us a whole year. We must mobilise our total resources and if need be put the country on a war footing to tackle the economy and the problems of law and order. Unless we end the laws of the jungle and greed, magendo will thrive and people will be unable to contribute to development for fear of their lives. Beginning now we must crackdown hard on those who terrorize and loot innocent people. We must immediately expose those who hoard goods, create black markets and perpetuate magendo.

I give this pledge today that if in the forthcoming elections turned we will treat restoration of law and order and protection of our people and their property as our top priority. We shall rebuild the police and civil service machine and shall not hesitate to crush any corruption or sluggishness in the services. Law and order and efficient civil service are prerequisites to any meaningful development in the social or economic field. We shall cut across any bureaucratic system that impedes rapid rehabilitation and return to normality.

We shall create conditions which will induce our people to give their best in the reconstruction of our country.

We shall accept people who were unfairly expelled to come back if they wish to genuinely participate in the task of nation building.

We shall create conditions under which foreign and friendly Governments would feel happy and confident to lend us a ^helping hand in rebuilding our economy.

We shall offer incentives and Proper local protection to the investments of those who wish to come and invest in our country from abroad and help in our agricultural and economic development. There shall be no more nationalization.

The Uganda Peoples Congress and the Democratic Party - the major political parties which are both recognized and well established in Uganda have called for a free and fair elections, if possible, by 30th September this year. I support that call. The people of Uganda as a whole must be given the opportunity to elect whomsoever they chose as their leader through a secret ballot and in the best dome-erotic tradition.

Some people are now suggesting that a multi-party contest will help Obote and his party. These are the same people who under different circumstances would, scream from roof tops for democracy and the right of any party or person to contest our election. If it is suggested that in a free, fair and an election open to all parties would result in my election then I would accept the verdict because that would be the verdict of the majority of the people of Uganda, I have no objection and indeed recommend to people responsible for organising the elections to invite official observes from Commonwealth and OAU countries to observe the fairness of the election.

Before I conclude, I ask you all, citizens of Uganda the give special thanks and gratitude to the people of Tanzania, their leader, Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere, their illustrious Party the COM and the TPDF. Let us all say with one voice: tie the people of Uganda express total and whole hearted solidarity with the people of Tanzania. We recognize that our solidarity is based on human blood shed in the pursuit for our freedom, we affirm as in the nook of path that the people of Tanzania shall be the people of Uganda and the people of Uganda shall be the people of Tanzania.

I know there are people assembled at this rally from all parts of Uganda who can carry a message back to every corner of Uganda just as there are representatives of the press, radio and television who can flash any message across to the world in a matter of hours. I, therefore, want to conclude by sending this message to all the people of Uganda and to the world at large.

Let it be known that Uganda's decade of shame is at last over. Let it be known that decade of misrule, lawlessness and corruption during which one of the most beautiful and richly endowed countries in Africa was exploited and plundered beyond imagination and reduced to virtual wasteland is over.

The decade in which our hard working, proud but gently and talented people were stripped of all human dignity and subjected to endless brutality and both physical and mental torture is over. The decade in which our great political, social and economic institutions were systematically and ruthlessly destroyed is dead and buried forever.

Let a message go across to the world and let it be carried by you all here present to every city, town and village across the great plains, mountains and valleys of this Pearl of Africa that a new era is about to dawn in Uganda.

There shall be peace and prosperity and there shall be security in Uganda. There shall be a government that will rule through democratic means and firmly establish and maintain the rule of law.

There shall be a government that will waste no time in embarking on total mobilization of our human material resources to rehabilitate existing and further develop our agriculture and industry; a government that will also weed out once and for all corruption, nepotism and incompetence from its very roots.

There shall be a government that will protect both the strong and the weak, old and young and care for the sick and the old; a government that will work towards creating a society based on justice and equality.

There shall be a government wedded first and foremost to protect the interests of Uganda and those of its citizens but also a government that shall be a friend, to all and foe to none.