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Salim's arrival in Addis Ababa, was a celebration of excellence and African pride.

How can I forget our first trip to the then apartheid enclave in South Africa, where we had a very early privilege of meeting Tata Nelson Mandela, Mr. F.W. de Klerk, General Viljoen and oh yes, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, who subjected us to listen to his marathon speech on why he knew better than everybody, the solutions to South African problems. Dr. Salim sat through it all without betraying his irritation. That visit was a first by the continental organization. It was later to be followed by my deployment to open an OAU office in South Africa. I followed the negotiations and the elections before being offered senior jobs in succession and the OAU headquarters where I teamed up with some brilliant minds like Amb. Tim Bandora, Amb. Said Djinnit, Dr John Tesha, and subsequently, with Dr. Mohammed Halfani, who for many years worked closely with Dr. Salim and others to shape policy.

It was under Dr Salim that for the first time we were able build the requisite institutional capacities that enabled me to be part of the negotiations in many parts of Africa, including in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and the Comoros among others. By far the most complex and perhaps rewarding of those experiences were mediating the conflicts between Ethiopia and Eritrea and the conflict in Darfur, Sudan. By the time Dr. Salim named me as AU's Chief Mediator in the Joint UA-UN Mediation Team (JMST), I was lucky to have been given the opportunity to serve my continental Organization.

Mzee Salim is a Mwalimu. He is a reformer who beliefs in young people. But he is also a trailblazer to the core. He left his mark everywhere. He took one good look at the peace and security architecture in Africa against the backdrop of the fundamental changes taking place in the world in the world and decided that Africa must assuming responsibility for resolving African problems.

Easy and convincing – no more finger pointing, no more excuses. If Africa was part of the problem, it had to be part of the solution. And so it was that he established a Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, a Central Organ and a Peace Fund, A Panel of the Wise, an African Women's Committee for Peace and Development at the Continental Organization etc.

Salim bequeaths to our continent a new sense of confidence and realism.

Mzee Salim was the best Boss I had or could hope to have. He was a Boss, but he was also a friend and a very good brother. On so many occasions, he led me into his family where I saw at first hand the generosity of the Boss and kindness and graciousness of his kind and hospitable wife Mama Amne Salim. Did they not say that behind every successful man, there is a woman. His humility was overwhelming. He was a King for he enjoyed eating with his entourage. When and where you were wrong, he will correct you and if Mzee was unwilling or unable to help you, he would do nothing to undermine you. On the contrary, where he would be unable or unwilling to act, or disagree strongly with what you had done, he would slip back into the vintage diplomatic response. A class diplomat, he would find an appropriate language to tell you to go you hell in a way that makes you look forward to making the trip.

To my Boss for all times, you have earned my eternal gratitude, friendship and respect. To his family and Country, thank you for giving us this giant.

**Dr John Tesha, Executive Secretary, Africa Forum, Pretoria, South Africa**

In my view, Salim Ahmed Salim's contribution to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and his legacy essentially derives from utilizing his varied experiences both in politics and multilateral diplomacy to re-profile and re-energize the continental organization on the basis of the principles and values of the founding fathers. Unfortunately there were no founding mothers but Salim took seriously the issue of gender equality. His major strengths as Secretary-General of the OAU were his diplomatic skills having been appointed the youngest ambassador in the diplomatic service of the United Republic of Tanzania when he was in his twenties. His first posting as Ambassador was to Cairo, Egypt. At that time, Cairo was the centre for the liberation struggles in Africa and the capital of Pan-Africanism. Salim was therefore in the midst of both the liberation struggles and the philosophy of Pan-Africanism. In subsequent years he became Tanzania's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN).

As Tanzania's Permanent Representative to the UN he perfected his skills and enhanced his ability to negotiate and defend Africa's position in multilateral diplomacy. His major preoccupation at the UN was to secure Africa's relevance and position in the world. He joined the African Group at the UN in promoting the policy of decolonization and in ensuring that the wars of liberation were recognized as just wars. He later assumed the responsibilities of Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and subsequently was appointed Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania. None of his predecessors had the same exemplary background. Besides, his humility, simplicity, courteousness and ability to interact with officials at all levels gave him an added advantaged.

As Secretary-General of the OAU he effectively utilized his vast experiences to formulate the African Agenda based on the values of Pan-Africanism and a united and a strong Africa. Consequently, as the new Secretary-General his first preoccupation was

to forge consensus on what would constitute a continental agenda for the political, social and economic transformation of the continent. The first item of the agenda was therefore peace, security and stability; the second was the promotion of democracy and good governance; the third was social and economic development; and the fourth item was Africa and the world. Salim recognized that without peace there could not be development and without development peace was illusive and untenable. Salim's major preoccupation was to have a comprehensive African agenda endorsed at all levels and the only way to do that was to make concrete proposals to the Council and the Summit. He therefore decided to develop regionally negotiated policy blueprints through the Report of the Secretary-General during the Council and Summit sessions.

It is therefore clear that the 1990 Declaration *Report of the Secretary-General on the Fundamental Changes taking place in the World and their Implications for Africa* gave substance to Salim's preoccupation with Africa's agenda setting. The declaration addresses all four agenda items outlined including peace, security and stability; consolidating democracy and good governance; social and economic transformation; and Africa and the world. The Lomé Declaration of 2002 adopted at the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU, the Cairo Declaration of 1990, and others were all a result. To me, the most important and landmark contribution Salim made was to propose the strategic shift from the OAU to the African Union (AU). I think Salim would be remembered as the last Secretary-General of the OAU thereby constituting the end of an era.

There is no doubt that since Salim was elected Secretary-General of the OAU on 27 July 1989 and assumed the responsibilities of that position in September of the same year, he worked to strengthen the operational activities of the OAU and to promote the organization as the premier continental body. He worked tirelessly to enhance the capacity of the organization to represent Africa in international affairs in order to forge a thorough unity of purpose for the benefit of all.

Salim took over the responsibilities of the Secretary-General of the OAU with an exemplary political and diplomatic background. In my view, no other Secretary-General had the same esteemed background. His legacy lies in the number of policy blueprints adopted by the highest policy making structure of the OAU.