



THERE WHEN THE LIFE OF A VISIONARY STATESMAN WAS CUT SHORT

JULY. 5, 1969

THERE WHATEVER THE FUTURE HOLDS

That Saturday, around 1 o'clock, the Mercedes, with its Minister's pennant glides to a halt along the bare Government Road. Tom Mboya, the driver, steps out and enters Channi's Chemist Shop. At 1.15pm, Tom Mboya carries a bottle of medicine and heads out. Two shots from a Smith & Wesson revolver shatter the quiet afternoon. Tom Mboya falls. The bottle breaks. Blood soaks his jacket and briefcase. As the shooter speeds away, a doctor from the next shop runs in to resuscitate him. He breathes faintly. He dies within the hour. The *Saturday Nation* special edition announces the assassination of Tom Mboya, the trade unionist, freedom fighter, Pan-Africanist, visionary. Outpouring of grief grips the country, continent and the world. "When you killed Tom, you lost 30 years," said the Malaysian Prime Minister.