

Mwananchi

POETRY (20 MARKS)

Read the following poem and then answer the questions that follow.

You embarrass me...

Mwananchi

Why do you embarrass me with your questions?

About the new Mercedes I bought

The large farm I own

The houses, the wives,

An inflated stomach!

Mwananchi

Why do you threaten me with your threats?

The threats in your bloodshot eyes

Fixedly pointed at me wherever I go

Like if you are ready

To release the arrow that will deflate me

Into nothingness;

Even the watchmen, the dogs, the police

Are all not enough to protect me

From your increasing shouts to protest

Against my good judgement;

Mwananchi

Have you forgotten how you loved me?

And gave me your vote
That I may be your man in parliament?

Now that I have the power
I will mend your confused senses
And keep you in prison
Until you see me as your leader again
And keep those bloodshot eyes away from me

I will charge like an angry lion
And scare you out of your wits
Until like a frightened dog,
You keep your head forever...

~ *Everett M. Standa*

Questions

1. Identify the persona in the poem. (2 marks)
2. What is the message of the poem? (4 marks)
3. Identify and comment on any two aspects of style in the poem. (6 marks)
4. Describe the tone of the poem. (2 marks)
5. Identify and illustrate two character traits of Mwananchi. (4 marks)
6. Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the poem. (2 marks)
 - 6.1. Inflated stomach
 - 6.2. Scare you out of your wits.