ZANZIBAR President Ali Hassan Mwinyi yesterday announced major changes to his cabinet, reducing it from 16 to 11 ministers, Radio Zanzibar reported.

He reappointed Seif Sharrif Hamad as his chief minister and replaced seven members of the island’s ruling 28-man Revolutionary Council.

Mwinyi, 59, was approved last month by 87.5 per cent of voters as president of the Indian Ocean islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, which are linked politically with mainland Tanzania.

He merged the ministries of water, natural resources and power, and housing and lands and construction, into one ministry and dropped the ministries of planning and labour to help cut down on government expenditure and improve administrative efficiency.

He also reduced the number of ministers to three, and said that his government had reverted to the old system of principal secretaries instead of calling them junior ministers.

The once-abandoned commission on planning has now been revived to replace the ministry of planning, and Mwinyi said the departments of labour, manpower and social welfare have been merged into a ministry which will be directly administered by his office.

Mwinyi is formerly minister of state in the vice-president’s office. He took over the islands’ leadership last January at the height of the tension between Zanzibar and mainland Tanganyika over the union government.

Following his election, Mwinyi also took over the vice-presidency of the Tanzanian union government, making him number two man to President Julius Nyerere.

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Mwinyi names his isle Cabinet

DAR ES SALAAM, Tuesday

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Following his election, Mr Mwinyi also took over the Vice-Presidency of the Tanzania union government, making him number two man to President Julius Nyerere.

Last month, President Nyerere also cut down the number of ministries in the union government by more than a third “for the sake of efficiency and to cut down expenditure”.

The new Zanzibari cabinet is as follows:

President — Ali Hassan Mwinyi; Chief Minister — Seif Sharrif Hamad; Finance — Taimur Saleh Juma; Agriculture and Livestock — Hassan Nassor Moyo; Marine, Tourism and Forestry — Isbau Abdulla Khamis; Trade and Industries — Enoch Bilal; Water, Construction and Natural Resources — Ali Haji Pandu; Communications and Transport — Suleiman Seif; Education — Soud Yusuf Mgeni; Health — Maulid Makaine; Information, Culture and Sports — Msimu Abdurahman; Minister of State in Chief Minister’s Office — Mohamed Fakh.

Swearing in of the new Zanzibari leaders will take place tomorrow (Wednesday).

Mr Mwinyi is also the chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Council in Zanzibar. (Agencies).