

Tangaza Update Extra

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A New Kenya?

Editorial

A friend's family cannot access their property in Eldoret, Kenya. A fellow student has been evicted from their house close to the college because of their tribal affiliation.

A civil servant appears on Television claiming that he has been dismissed unfairly in circumstances bordering on tribal hate. Welcome to the new Kenya.

These are just small signs of the situation in the country (it the state of the nation) in the wake of tribal/ethnic violence. These escalations have even affected relationships in the universities.

About a month ago, I visited a friend in a local Public University. We walked past an area common with students coming together to talk and interact and it was almost idle.

Then commenting on that he told me that those who had girl/boyfriends from the other tribe (on whichever side) were no longer interacting. That took me back. I was left asking myself, would I part with my girlfriend on the basis of the current political crisis? Would you?

By the time am writing this Koffi Anan has pulled through a deal between Raila and Kibaki. What friends have they become of late! We hope that this is going to trickle down into every aspect of our lives and Kenyans will once again be one. They have shown the way, can we now build a new nation, one of unity in diversity, as sisters and brothers?

Repairing Damaged Souls in Korogocho

By Oluoch Japheth

It has been said many times that the post-election violence has caused so much damage to children of our nation that the real effects will be experienced forty years later when today's children will have grown up.

It is sadly evident that parents have planted permanent seeds of hatred in the most fertile part of our children's hearts, as we often hear children slam unpalatable statements and utterances across their fellow children's faces. They do not hide their hatred for certain ethnic communities, personalities and political entities for which they have little love.

For instance, I recently overheard little children at St. John School vowing that '**mtu akisema Kibaki anachapwa**' (One is beaten when he or she talks about 'Kibaki'). These children are young and these are the sto-

Continued next page, Col 1

Can We Dare to be Different?

By Tim Redmond
Principal.

In September I wrote to all students, regarding our own student elections: *On a serious note, in this election year, I think that it is vital that we model a process of which we can be proud.*

I have been thinking about this a lot in the light of recent events. Some Wednesday last month, the gospel told the familiar story of the sons of Zebedee, (Matt 20:17-28) whose mother asked Jesus that they be given seats *one at his right and one at his left.*

Salome had an instinctive understanding of the way things work in this world and a mother's wish that her sons would become powerful. That is how it was then and that is how it is now – in the world.

Tangaza College is *in* the world: must we always be of the world? Our motto is **Tangaza Fumbo la Imani!** Part of that mystery is that we strive for the Kingdom of God, which is not a kingdom, or state like those of this world.

The Rulers of the Gentiles Lord it over them!

It is different, radically so. Jesus says: *You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

I have no way of knowing if these sentiments are considered in the peace talks which are still continuing in town. There is little I can do to promote them there.

But I would like to put a challenge to our own community, including myself. Can we in Tangaza, in a prophetic way, promote that model of leadership which is proclaimed in the gospel?

Can we dare to be different? Can we dare to be people of the Kingdom of God? Lent is a good time to start!

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If you have any response to the stories carried write to: Tangaza_update@yahoo.com

Continued from previous page

ries they hear from their parents and neighbors. Some have seen it happen with their own eyes.

When children hear such messages of hatred and discrimination, they unconsciously get initiated into this system. Children from the slums of Nairobi have been among the worst affected.

This violence has been orchestrated by the poor against the poor. It has been perpetrated at all the major slums of Nairobi from Kibera to Korogocho to Mathare, which are the bedrock of the country's politics. Children from the slums have therefore been fed with the most damaging political diet.

What then have we done to save the children for the future? A section of the youths in Korogocho have devoted their time to debriefing the children and cleaning their little minds of the post-election pollution.

Most of these young people, animators of the oratory group of children of St. John Catholic Church, have been going to schools and other children centers around Korogocho to talk to the children and explain the situation to them, warning them not

to allow being misled by biased ideas during these difficult times in the history of the country.

They tried to instill in the children the values of a laudable behaviour of love and of care for all without discrimination, reminding them that all are children of the same God.

These young leaders and animators have been very successful in their campaigns. This was evident recently when the same group organized a peace-walk that was attended by over three hundred children.

This walk was very significant as it took place only two days after violence broke out in the Ngunyumu village of Korogocho slum, when one person was killed and the fence of a city school destroyed forcing the school administration to close it. Learning at the nearby St. John School was also interrupted.

As long as uncertainty continues to live with us, these youths are not withdrawing from their contributions to initiatives of peace and justice reconstruction.

Plans are underway for a children's exhibition, a youth concert and an Easter Holiday play, contextualized to fit the current situation. Indeed these youths are true evangelizers amidst a people whose right of humanity has been taken away by a political class devoid of transparency, accountability, of the value of peace, of justice and the rule of law.

(The writer is a youth leader in Korogocho slums and a member of the Justice and Peace Commission, St John Catholic Church, Korogocho.)

Editor's Note:

We can only hope that things will work for the better with the grand coalition in place.

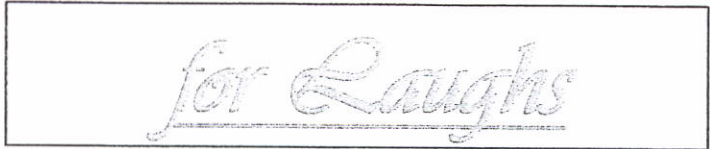


15th March — Institute of Social Communication (ISC) Open Forum.

19th March — Tangaza Day.

20th— 24th — Easter Break.

26th— 28th — Theology Symposium.



Why did the Chicken Cross the Road? Continued..

Moses: And God came down from the Heavens, and He said unto the chicken, "Thou shalt cross the road." And the chicken crossed the road, and there was much rejoicing.

Fox Mulder: You saw it cross the road with your own eyes. How many more chickens have to cross the road before you believe it?

Machiavelli: The point is that the chicken crossed the road. Who cares why? The end of crossing the road justifies whatever motive there was.

Timothy Leary: Because that's the only trip the establishment would let it take.

Colonel Sanders: (flagship character, Kentucky Fried Chicken): I missed one?

A Koala and his 'joint'

Courtesy of: Sheila Karuga, ISC.

A koala is sitting up in a gum tree ... smoking a joint when a little lizard walks past and looks up and says, "Hey Koala ! What are you doing?" The koala says, "Smoking a joint, come up and have some."

So the little lizard climbs up and sits next to the koala and they have a few joints. After a while the little lizard says his mouth is 'dry' and is going to get a drink from the river. But the little lizard is so stoned that he leans too far over and falls into the river.

A crocodile sees this and swims over to the little lizard and helps him to the side, then asks the little lizard: "What's the matter with you?"

The little lizard explains to the crocodile that he was sitting smoking a joint with the koala in the tree, got too stoned and then fell into the river while taking a drink.

The crocodile says he has to check this out and walks into the rain forest, finds the tree where the koala is sitting finishing a joint, and he looks up and says "Hey you!"

So the koala looks down at him and says: "Shiiiiiiik! ... how much water did you drink?!!!"

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