

## **Bracing for a New Kenya**

**By Mwangi Wanjumbi for Newtimes Articles & Info Library – July 2010**

Safe for the occurrence of a miracle in the next few days, we can as at now comfortably conclude that the proposed constitution will be passed by the majority of Kenyans. Let us therefore start bracing for a new Kenya rather than resisting change which is virtually unstoppable. This position is especially informed by the results of the numerous opinion polls that have been brought into the public domain.

The science of opinion polling precludes us from imaginations of doctoring of poll results. The correctness of the polls to the overall expectations is confirmed by the fact that the pollsters have continually been carrying out research on a fulltime basis. On the other hand, the opinion polls on political matters have only been periodical. Essentially, the pollsters consistently guide corporate, international and multinational business organizations.

Further, the same market targeted for research on organizational products and services is not much different from that which is targeted in the opinion polls. In addition, the scientific research process will naturally be the same whatever the type of research. It follows therefore that no pollster will risk being unprofessional or unscientific aiming to serve the interests of one party or the other.

In our circumstances, there will be no gain for giving hope to the Greens at the cost of the Reds. Consequently, we need to start re-evaluating the gains that we each appreciate of the proposed constitution, which is now poised to become a reality. This will inevitably influence us in readily accepting the results of the referendum and therefore avoiding any unpalatable consequences.

Personally, I attribute many positives to the proposed constitution. In the last few years particularly, I have written many articles on values and ethics both at organizational and national perspectives. The articles have been published in a wide cross section of both the daily media and professional journals. Many times, the articles which reflect what has been happening in the developed world, may have rubbed some people the wrong way. Probably, we now need to appreciate that many people have only been used to carefully following the laws of the land, as we pursue our daily chores and vocations. This is fine because it helps in avoiding penalties or fines arising out of court action by either the state or those whom we may offend.

But, we have apparently failed to recognize other guiding principles as advocated by the discipline of values and ethics, especially in a highly dynamic world. Whereas this discipline shares some of the principles with religion, the developed world has recognized some of them in their own statutes as a means of influencing national and international behavior. That is why many organizations today recognize core values which guide employee conduct towards customers and other stakeholders.

Some good examples of values include fairness, integrity, social justice, social responsibility and sensitivity to the environment amongst others.

In the meantime, I am personally full of praise for Chapter 6 of the proposed constitution. It gives clear guides on expectations from our leaders. Above all leaders will be expected to be of impeccable integrity, free of corruption and nepotism amongst other vices. Further, leaders will for the first time be expected to serve Kenyans rather than rule over them. Effectively, this chapter on national values will invaluablely change the leadership process in this country. Indeed, the chapter seems too good to be true especially if the guides can be enforced throughout the national framework. Notably, each of us has a positive attribute or the other served by the proposed constitution.

Like in the case of national values and ethics, let each of us seek for the positives expressed in the proposed constitution and then look forward to the implementation process. That way, we will neutralize the few negatives that have been subject of so much political heat. We will then proudly soldier on with building our country from completely renewed perspectives. That is as it should be after 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

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