

Why Wako topped the list of best performers

By Mwangi Wanjumbi

On learning that Amos Wako, 'the smiling' Attorney General is our best national performer, I was initially taken off balance. In fact, I kept wondering what it is that has endeared the assessors to Wako's sometimes maligned department. I of course knew that looks and other personal attributes like smiling may not be linked to performance. So, it is unlikely that Wako could have smiled his way to the top.

If you can recall an experience of a one time beauty queen who was aspiring to be Miss Kenya, you can understand what I mean. Her rise to the top faltered badly courtesy of her own inadequacies. Is it not surprising that a beauty queen had no idea what female genital mutilation was all about? Meanwhile, as I pondered on the standards that propelled Amos Wako to this prestigious position, something came to my mind.

In 2008, I interacted with a little known Quasi-government organization called the Kenya National Law Reports Commission, which is under the Attorney General. As participants in the Company of the Year Award - COYA, this organization needed to know how they fair in best management practices. As one of the assessors, I had intricate discussions with Agness Boss Shollei, the then CEO. Apparently, Shollei left the Nairobi University lecture halls to initiate KNRLC, sometimes early in the new Millennium. From scratch, Shollei had built this organization from a one person entity to about 50 staff members. This CEO's grasp of the operations of the KNRLC was admirable.

Without causing much unease in the operations of other law oriented organizations, Shollei has in my view extensively extended her influence to the performance of the now upbeat judiciary. No judge wants to be caught with his/her pants down. Whenever judgments are made in the courts of law, they have to immediately be availed to the KNRLC for uploading in their website. Case lists and other matters are daily uploaded in the website too. And this happens from Nairobi to Mombasa and even up-to Kakamega and Kisii or any other town where there is a court of law in the republic.

Therefore, in only a few years time, the countries emergent as well as past judge made laws are up for everybody to read and refer to, in the continually updated national law library of the KNLRC. Today, Lawyers and legal students have an easier time referring to the ever up-to date Law Reports. Perhaps this explains why the Judiciary is now upbeat. Above all, if Wako has introduced similar and continuous improvement interventions in other areas of his department, it is not surprising then that he has been rated as the best performer.

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