

# To the editor

The editor welcomes brief letters on topical issues. Write on e-mail to: [mailbox@ke.nationmedia.com](mailto:mailbox@ke.nationmedia.com). You can also mail to: The Editor, Daily Nation, POB 49010, Nairobi 00100. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or legal considerations.

## Fight vulgar language on FM radio stations

The Media Council of Kenya is right. Those going on air should first pass through media schools.

Every field of practice has got its code of conduct. It's embarrassing to hear vulgar language from presenters.

DJs and comedians should use their talents professionally, keeping in mind that radio is heard by millions of people of all generations.

I also agree with the council that media schools which do not have requisite tools and don't teach the media code of conduct should be closed down. There are schools out there to make quick money at the expense of our public morality.

Media companies should also offer more educational content.

RISPER QWAMBOX, Nairobi

## Protesters, police and ministry were all wrong

Why should university students suck in parties not in any way involved in their demands? How did motorists affect student fees? Will stoning cars and blocking roads reverse the directive — if ever it were there? What has the shopkeeper on University Way done? Do you have to loot to drive your point home?

Yet, students do these because it's the only language the authorities understand. And the GSU deployed to quell the unrest, did they have to use such excessive force? Why maim fellow citizens?

And why did Kaimenyi entertain the idea of fee increment knowing the economy is in the doldrums?

MUSYOKA NGUI, Kitui

## Celibacy critics want to see Catholic Church fall

Attacks on the Catholic Church based on the Sacrament of the Holy Orders are ever intensifying. It was shocking to read that some Italian women were in "devastating suffering" because the church does not allow priests to marry and enjoy sex.

These women did not say whether these priests are the most handsome or loving men in the world. There are many lay and unattached men out there looking for women to marry. Why pick on the clergy?

Terminology in the church a non-sacred value shows how determined the women are to bring down the chosen ones of God and the Catholic Church in general, as it's where celibacy is practised.

KAMAU GITAU, Kiambu

## TALKING POINT

# Varsity students' strike was uncalled for after Kaimenyi's fee reassurance

The strike that paralysed learning in most public universities on Tuesday was unwarranted and uncalled for.

The students went on the rampage despite Education Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi's assurance that the ministry had no intention of increasing university fees without wide consultation.

It is disheartening that the student leadership in public institutions except JKUAT, Kenyatta University and Kimathi misled their members to protest even after the minister's assurance.

Previously we have witnessed students take to the streets, engage the police in running battles and loot public property over frivolous issues like power outage, poor diet, exam ill-preparedness, arrest of a colleague and the like.

Students' proclivity for strikes should be discouraged. A university should be the citadel of academic excellence, so our students should exhaust all methods of resolving conflicts before going on strike. They should embrace conflict-resolution mechanisms other than devastating strikes.

JOSEPH G. MUTHAMA, Thika

## Achieved goals?

Babu Owino, the leader of the Students Organisation of Nairobi University (Sonu) and his mates have probably calmed down after an athletic smoke-filled Tuesday.

Some of the rotten eggs in the basket will be a few side mirrors and mobile phones richer, but I



EVANS HABIL | NATION

A University of Nairobi student weeps after she was arrested by police on Tuesday. Students in public universities were protesting against a proposal to increase tuition fees.

doubt the university folks will have achieved their goals.

For a long time, certain images have been printed on the minds of Kenyans regarding street demos — shouting crowds with sketchy banners full of demands, marching towards the city centre only to make a hasty return trip a few hours later with police in hot pursuit.

This often happens in tear gas-filled environments laced with stone-throwing, injuries, loss of property and in some cases fatalities, courtesy of police batons, stray bullets or missiles. Truly the Kenyan definition of a demonstration.

We often think of demonstrations as negative — violence against something. But they can

also be positive and peaceful. They can support ideas, initiatives, or existing programmes. Demos are a way of getting a point across to those in power. Protesters may also use humour, theatre or music. The pig-filled Occupy Parliament protest against MPs was a blend.

So all that the students needed to do was to consider beforehand, whether a demonstration was the right vehicle to get their point across, then plan it, carefully and carry it out peacefully.

A successful demonstration should be able to accomplish its goals either immediately or over the long term. I do not think Tuesday's protests got close to that.

PAUL S. BARASA, Nairobi

## Invest heavily in security if the war on corruption is to be won

Many have time and again blamed the rising insecurity on corruption in the police service. While this is true to some extent, we have not taken time to think about the conditions that contribute to this corruption. Again, to label the whole service corrupt is a disservice to thousands of men and women who daily put their lives on the line to ensure we are safe.

Many may argue they are paid to work, but the question is: How much resources have we allocated to enable them to perform optimally? Most officers' houses are worse than slums. We have stations where officers live in mud-wall, grass-thatch houses constructed during pre-independence days. Some officers' families live in barracks partitioned by bed-sheets

with leaking roofs. It is estimated that there is a housing shortfall of 76 per cent — 84 per cent in the AP service. Officers cannot resort to industrial action so the issue remains in the in-tray.

The police force is still analogue. Manual typewriters are still widely used. There are no ICT facilities. Some stations contribute to buy computers and printers, but maintaining records is a challenge, given the unwillingness of the government to train its officers.

Hardship allowance is a joke — Sh600 for unmarried and Sh1,200 for the married). It's time we invested heavily in security, otherwise our dream of a secure and peaceful country will remain a mirage.

KUNG'U WANJIRU, Limuru

## SHORT TAKES

Emails from correspondents

**WAIGURU, TELL THEM:** I think Cabinet Secretary Anne Waiguru should address the concerns of Mr Mithika Linturi and the other MPs by revealing all. She ought to show the MPs that she has nothing

to hide. She has in the past been ranked top Cabinet Secretary in performance. As a worker, I am happy when another worker is successful. I know that it calls for a lot of effort and one does not just sit there and still deliver services. She should move with speed and save her job addressing any concerns MPs have.

GITHUKU MUNGAI, KI

**READ THE LAW:** Regarding Mr Macharia Gaithe's Tuesday opinion criticising the President for empowering county commissioners, I do know why he cannot take time to read the Constitution and know the roles of the two levels of government. He seems to echo populist stereotypes. The impeachment of governors is enough to show that governors are not good custodians of resources. When the Marsabit governor was put to task over insecure Cord defended him saying security was a National Government affair.

PERIS MBURU, N

**I LOVE SWEETS:** Kiarie Peter's comment about sweets for channels is a response. I personally prefer sweets as they don't jingle in my pocket and don't cause issues of a now frequent metal detector check. They are also great for giving to family and street families. If Peter strongly enough, he should make sure he goes with enough channels in his pocket to avoid getting sweats back, or just use a credit card.

PREEYESH SHAH

**DESPERATE KENYANS:** There has been a strange inflation in electricity bills beyond consumers' ability to pay. There are other bills which need to be paid and are increasing. Life has become hard for these bills, yet we see no job creation and development strategies were promised before last year's elections. This is why the cases of robbery, suicide, stress, and other negative acts have increased. Most Kenyans are tired of this which in turn can visit chaos if not solved. We must think this is happening in Ukraine, Russia, Greece, Italy and others in crises and see that desperate to a revolution.

ABDILLAH A S

## YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

### Are university students justified to go on strike over proposed fee increase?

**NOELLE CHELAGAT:** No. They have a right to demonstrate, but how they went about it is all wrong. In most cases, looters and students with bad intentions rob and harass people who are trying to earn a living.

**EPHANTUS HUGO NDIRITU:**

Yes. They were right to demonstrate peacefully, but had no right to destroy property and harass wananchi.

**EMILY MWASAME:** Yes. But attacking motorists was hooliganism.

**DICKSON MAKUMI:** Yes. Most public university students come from

poor families; rich ones join private colleges. To increase fees while reducing Helb loans is evil enough to warrant a demonstration.

**FELISTA MATUKA:** Yes. Some students self-educate, and high fees will force them to drop out of university.

**MOSES OMARE:** No. Students need to embrace dialogue.

**AGNES CHEGE:** Yes.

**CHARLES NGILA:** Yes. Education is a right.

**KELVIN WAMAGAMA:** No. Strikes lead to destruction of property.

## DEBATE QUESTION

### What can the government do to increase tourist arrivals?

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