

The Kenyan Church is sinning.

Written by Duncan Ogaro Mikae

Thursday, 08 April 2010 14:49 - Last Updated Wednesday, 30 June 2010 07:48

Just like the Biblical Pharisees, Selective Interpretation of the constitution by the church is Hazardous and sinful.

When I read the newspapers these days I don't fail to get one common message ;'The Church's dislike of the proposed constitution'

.This reminds me of the history of the church when the Pharisees were against Jesus because they were following the law of God to the letter. The Pharisees perhaps meant to obey God, but eventually they became so devoted and extremist in

very limited

parts of The Law

(plus all that they themselves added to it), that they became blind to The Messiah when He was in their very midst. They saw His miracles, they heard His Words, but instead of receiving it with joy, they did all that they could to stop Him - eventually to the point of getting Him killed because He truthfully claimed to be the Son of God.



The lesson from the Pharisees' example is that *self*-righteousness is not righteousness, and that God's true people are to live according to

all

of God's Word

, not just certain parts that are most convenient or to one's own liking, our church leaders are forgetting that the same God they quote encourages tolerance and perseverance, the church is therefore supposed to have been the first to ask those against some clauses to pray and hope that amendments will come later, in saying this I might sound out of order but the truth here is that the church is not justified in being proactive in leading those against this proposed constitution just because of few clauses at the expense of the many that are for the common good of everyone.

Some sections of the Church are threatening to lead the '**Flock**' in voting against this draft, simply because it is encouraging Kadhi courts and abortion, To me I see it as an uncalled for worry by a section of the church, I

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am also

seeing some short handedness here because the issue of the Kadhi courts or Abortion is not and will never be contentious.

Why?

In the current religious set up, the church is the major 'stakeholder' because Islam takes just a minority space in the share, this makes muslims a minority, now if muslims are a minority, is the church fair in suppressing the wishes of a small minority? I hope this fear that is being misplaced can be diffused earlier than later.

Selective Interpretation,

When the church comes out fighting the issue of '**Kardhi courts' and Abortion'** for example, I tend to conclude that whoever is advising the Church leaders is actually misrepresenting facts, in fact I can assume this person or persons have not read the proposed constitution.

Abortion,

This is because in the preamble of the constitution it is stated;

(' We, the people of Kenya—

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ACKNOWLEDGING the supremacy of the Almighty God of all creation")

Before we even put the constitution to use we are stating that we acknowledge the supremacy of the almighty God, in my small understanding of this words I believe we are putting Gods Law above this constitution. God prohibits killing, and if there is any law in our land it can definitely not over rule the Law of God, this means there is no cause to worry about the clause on abortion because the same constitution that has the clause recognizes the rule of God. As honourable member for Bumula put it in parliament recently, God knew his birth even before his Mothers conception, in this argument I can actually say nobody knows the beginning of life except God because even in Science we have facts ascertaining late pregnancies.

Kardhi courts,

In the same section of the preamble It partly states we are;

*(**PROUD** of our **ethnic, cultural and religious** diversity, and determined to live in*

peace and unity as one indivisible sovereign nation:

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RESPECTFUL of the natural environment that is **our heritage**, and determined to

sustain it for the benefit of future generations:

COMMITTED to nurturing and protecting the well-being of the individual, the

family, communities and the nation:

RECOGNIZING the aspirations of all Kenyans for a government based on the

essential values of human rights, equality, freedom, democracy, social justice and the

rule of law)

From this it is clear in enacting a new constitution we are ready to respect and recognize the diverse religious and cultural setups of the people of Kenya as a whole. This alone means we have to accommodate all cultural set ups.

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Furthermore another reason why this issue of Kadhi courts is non-contetious is because;

Chapter 2 (The republic State and religion) part 10 states that (1) State and religion shall be separate
(2) There shall be no State religion.
(3) The State shall treat all religions equally.

In the same proposed constitution under **Article 209** the Proposed constitution outlines the Jurisdiction of the Kardhi Courts as being determination of questions of Muslim law relating to personal status, marriage, divorce or inheritance in proceedings in which **all the parties profess the Muslim religion.**

This alone dispels fears that the Kardhi courts are going to work against Christianity because they are purely courts that will be used by muslims to solve their cases.

Also,

in chapter 6 bill of rights ;minorities and marginalized groups under article 44 (1) Minorities and marginalized groups are entitled to enjoy all the rights and fundamental

freedoms set out in the Bill of Rights, on a basis of equality, taking into account their

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identity, way of life, special circumstances and needs.

Since time immemorial Muslims have had Kardhi courts, it is their way of life and there is no way anybody will justify this constitution if amendments are to be made in contradiction with other fundamental laws in the same proposed constitution.

It beats reason to see that some church leaders are against a section in the proposed constitution yet the same is in our current constitution. With all due respect I urge our church leaders 'those against the draft constitution' to first of all rethink their options and evaluate their intentions then sit down and read the whole document of the draft constitution to understand it before coming out in public to incite Christians against voting for the draft, a move that amounts to inciting Christians against Muslims yet we have always enjoyed good relations. This is because none of them has a right to deny Kenyans a constitution that they have waited for the last two decades, none of them also has a right to be very vocal in fighting this progress that we have had as a nation because they were there before and they never agitated for a new constitution back then like they are agitating against it now. They have a constitutional right to air their views just like the rest of the Kenyans because they too, are just subjects to this constitution, it would have been otherwise if it was the church that conceptualized the struggle for a new constitution.

I have a shallow knowledge in religion issues but I understand that God is an accommodating God, he loves us all though most of us are 'sinners' that is why Jesus was in the company of a

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where in his gatherings at one point. That is why the church should be ready to accommodate other people's needs that don't affect their relationship with 'their God'. Right now what I am seeing is a number of church leaders who have forgotten the word of God, they have practically started playing politics instead of leading the 'sheep' of God, to me they have turned out to be the Biblical Pharisees.

Jesus Christ had strong words about the Pharisees, and what awaits some of them:



"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:20).

And today I tell the church leaders who are against this constitution the same message.

God Bless Kenya.