

INDIGENES: THE SEARCH FOR KENYAN CULTURAL IDENTITIES

Dear Mr. President:

In this document will be present, a recommendable proposal <practical in sight, but probably, not in, immediate application>, on how, to deal, with the four main kinds, of problems, that, the Government deals with, on an everyday basis; that of, Fuel/energy issues, Utilities usage, Resources access, and Currency/money issues. That these four issues, while probably seen, by, the Government, as management issues <as with, the best management style to use, in dealing with them>, it is proposed here, that, another view, be taken into account: that of, the fact that, Kenya, lacks, what are known, as, Cultural Identities, and improper definitions, of what, constitutes, a true, Indigene. That by knowing these two well <as with, definition perhaps>, the Government, can deal with, the above four issues that trouble it, to a greater extent, on a daily basis.

In many ways Mr. President, an Indigene, is a person, who goes, about, using the above four, mentioned wants, on a daily basis, and in, a certain, discernable manner, and not, waywardly, as many, Kenyans do today. What this means Mr. President, is that, we can say, that, as, a Cultural Identity, there is a time, for, Breakfast, and even, Lunch, and not simply, getting, something to eat, at, any one time, one feels hungry. That's whom, Indigenes are, they do things, in a certain set manner, and not, as with, what, one sees, in Kenya today, where, people do things, as, they see/feel it. It is this problem, of, nearly all Kenyans, acting so waywardly, as with, the usage, of the above four mentioned wants, that has the Government, stressed out, on a daily basis, in meeting, the demands, of, its people.

While asking Kenyans, to behave, in, a certain manner, to limit, all kinds of, disruptions, has been, formerly tried out, it has been a tactic, known, not to work too well. In many ways, it is deemed and perceived true that, this problem, can only, truly be dealt with, by, actually, attempting to design Kenyan urban spaces, in a certain, manner, that has people, doing things, in, a certain manner too and hence limiting, disruptions, of all kinds. That in general it is perceived true that, the average Kenyan, psychologically speaking, is driven by urges and drives <of all kinds>, and not, by needs and desires, as many, in Kenya, tend to believe. The difference is Mr. President, that those, driven by, Urges and Drives, tend, to act, impromptu, as urges and drives, tend, to arise, immediately, and in most cases, must be, dealt with as such <immediately>. This is not true, for needs and desires, which, in most ways, are actually, longed for <as in wanting, to watch, a movie>, and have in many ways too, a time limit to them <as with, a planning period>. Knowing all this Mr. President, what is then been said is that, Cities, like Nairobi, and other Kenyan urban spaces have actually been, designed, to meet, needs and desires, and not, urges <strong needs> and drives <strong desires; a good example of a drive, is wanting, to see, a friend, almost immediately, which, Mr. President, while common in Kenya, does not really happen, in the Western world, as you might probably believe, it does>. It might be difficult, to see all this, but this is probably not so, for a person, who has lived, outside Kenya, for a considerable time period.

What is proposed below Mr. President, is in many ways, not only, defining, a Kenyan Indigene,

as based on urges and drives alone, but in many ways too, seeking, to show that, designing, Kenyan urban spaces, in the recommended way below, is a proper way, of, dealing with, the Kenyan Indigene, driven, by urges and drives, as with, meeting them, and not having to waste too much time <and Government time too>, in attempting, to fulfill them <what this means Mr. President, is that, in America, one can make, a timetable, for the kind, of food, they will eat, throughout the week, driven by desires. This is not true, for Kenya, where, what, is eaten, every night, is actually dependent, on the, whims/drives, of a person, just before, its, cooking. In Kenya, one can strongly desire / 'a drive', coffee, at 4 p.m., but totally lose interest in it, at, 4:30 p.m.>. Living in Kenya, is rather different, from, living in the Western world, as the issue of planning and plotting things out, does not happen, as one, would want them to, but one does find that, dealing with just about, anything, has to be done in, an almost, real-time manner.

In all, by truly defining, what a Kenyan Indigene is <as a person, with, certain set, Kenyan routines>, and the Cultural Identities, associated with them, one then can, create instant order, in most, Kenyan urban spaces, by having Kenyan Indigenes, meet, their urges and drives, in a, certain set manner <reducing time and money spent, in, most ways>.

Below, we shall attempt, to define, a Kenyan Indigene, and associated, Cultural Identities, not, from a philosophical perspective really, but, from a realistic <and rather, practical too>, Structural/design perspective. That in many ways, we find that, the Kenyan Indigene, can be defined by attempting really, to define, Energy usage, Utilities usage, Resource access, and Currency usage, from a design/routines perspective <and not, quantity/quality used, as is done in Kenya today>, and that too, Cultural Identities, can be defined, from the perspective, of, Structural units, found within, really, Councils, Municipalities, Media Cities and, Counties too, and not, from, a peoples perspective. The two, are not really, inseparable, and will be, presented, as one <as in, the Kenyan Indigene identity, meshes often out rightly at times with, Cultural Identity>. All this, will be much clearer, when, described really, from, the design and Structural, perspective, as mentioned, above.

To make all this, even clearer, the word, Indigene, will be divided, into, its various, constituents, as the word itself, is rather, broad, in its meanings. The four constituents used, to encompass, an, Indigene, are in many ways, an Aborigine, Inhabitant, Civilian, and also too, a Constituent. In all too, one can see, an attempt really, in Kenya today, to, identify a Kenyan Indigene, as a Kenyan taxpayer, and, Kenyan Cultural Identities, with, regards to what a Kenyan Native is <as with, tribal languages, spoken really>. The new proposals, mentioned here, will see to it, that, many of the problems associated with, taxpayers, and tribalism too <divisions in language spoken as a person who speaks, poor English, can be discriminated against, by those, who speak better English>, are in all, dealt with <tribalism, in Kenya today really, refers, to the fact that, certain people, are not allowed, access really, to, certain Political units, in meeting, their needs>.

KENYAN INDIGENES AND CULTURAL IDENTITIES:

Kenyan Aborigines and Councils:

The Kenyan Aborigine Mr. President, can be defined basically, as the person, who not, only lives, within a Council, but also is mainly, identified, as being, a user, of, Energy/fuel, in one manner or another. Councils, while previously defined <in another document>, from, a philosophical perspective, will hereby be defined, from a, structural one <as with, physical structural units>. In dealing with the rather heavy today, Energy/fuel demands, that, the average Kenyan uses, it is proposed that, having Kenyans base, most of their lives around, Councils, will in many ways see this, demand, heavily reduced in all. In doing this, three things, are mainly, proposed:

Residences vs. Premises: That these words, refer, to two, different forms of, living spaces, with Residences used, to describe, a place some one, stays in, while, Premises, in many ways, describe, a place, someone, lives in. In general, and in not, getting too deep, in, Intellectual thought, people, who live, in places actually, spend more energy, than those, who, stay, in a place. In all too, what is been asked is that, at, the very least, a way of life <a design really> whereby, members, of a Council, have, Home Offices, Walk more often than not, and even too, have, access to Eateries <as lots of energy, is spent, cooking, in Kenya>, be considered in all. In all too, this is, associated, with Public Systems design, and the three, should be, considered, a basis, in general activity, associated, with Public Systems.

Religious Identities vs. Corporeal Identities: Corporeal Identities here mainly refer, in many ways, to Media driven, Identities, that in many ways too, ask, one, to use, lots of Energy/fuel, in just about, anything they do. What is proposed instead here, are the Religious Identities, identified, in another document, on defining, a Nation, as with, someone, who heavily engages, in Religious Art <for all forms, of, self-enjoyment>. This differs, from, Corporeal Media, driven Identities, who for instance, spend, too much money/Energy, visiting, night spots, all over. In general, a person, with a Religious Identity, is more, likely, to stay at home reading, a good book.

City Planning vs. Urban Development: Urban Development in most ways here, refers to, Structural units, erected, mainly, to meet, with the demands of, Popular culture < American and Western in origin>, as seen, in Kenya. A good example includes, movie theatres, set up all over. Instead, what is perhaps sought out, is City planning, in, the form, of, erecting, Structural units, associated, with, Indigenous culture <which is, of the, Family, and, Recreational kind>. Popular culture though, is more, of, the Individual and Entertainment kind. In all it is believed that, having Kenyans entertain themselves, more, from a group/Family and Recreational perspective, is much more convenient <Energy wise>, than, from the perspective, of, Popular culture, and Individual entertainment.

Kenyan Inhabitants and Municipalities:

Kenyan Inhabitants Mr. President refers, to those not only, who reside in, Municipalities <as

proposed places, with, similar culture in them, as, mainly with, speech; and the very fact too, that, Kenyan slang, in Lang'ata, differs, from that, in, Karen and Eastlands>, and who also, in many ways are, in the need, of, certain Resources in all. In many ways too, this need, for Resources themselves is, in many ways, accounted for, in, the form, of, fuel demands. In dealing with the problem, of Resource allocation <and access too>, by, Kenyan taxpayers <as, Kenyan Inhabitants, of, Municipalities>, three primary ways, are suggested, as, Resource allocation <and access too>, does take up, lots, of time, for, many Kenyans resulting in, heavy traffic, all over Nairobi for instance.

Internet Technology vs. Physical Structures: The belief that really, that, most Kenyans, spend lots of time, wandering around, looking, for what, they need. This, in many ways, is in, alignment, with what, was stated, in, the Information Networks, document, that in all, the average Kenyan, is at, any moment, always, seeking out, Information/knowledge, in one form, or another. What is proposed more, on a macro scale <but also, very much too, on a micro scale as, within, a School itself>, is that, instead, of having, rather many standing, physical structures such as, Malls, containing Resources needed, that, Internet Technology, in the form of, internet websites, such as, Amazon.com, be used, in many ways, to help Kenyans access <and locate too>, Resources, as fast as possible. That even, in many ways too, such, Internet websites, be responsible, for, deliveries, of all, kinds <mainly weekly for instance>, and, hence helping save, lots, of time, not only, on, Resource allocation <and access>, but also, on, time and fuel spent, chasing, Resources. There are too many Malls in Kenya, standing, empty, most of the time, and in many ways, not, totally satisfying, as with meeting, ones needs, compared, to an, Internet website, such as a Kenyan, Amazon.com.

Housing vs. Accommodation: The very fact that there, exists, a difference between, Housing, and Accommodation, with, Housing mostly, referring, to Houses themselves, and, Accommodation, to Estates, Condos, Rentals, and Apartments too also. That in alignment, with, understanding, that the average Kenyan is, heavily driven, by, their urges and drives, is, to know <philosophically really>, that, living in Accommodation, results, in these urges and drives, being, more activated, than, living in Housing. That in general too, people, who live in Accommodation <while within Kenya> are much more, restless, in habit, than those, living, in Houses <which are more or less truly like, homes>. In all, what is suggested Mr. President is that, Housing/Houses, are more, suitable, for Kenyans to live in, than Accommodation, and in many ways too, results, in pleasant environments <similar in nature to, the world of, Whispers/Mutahi Wahome>, while, Accommodation, in many ways, results, in environments, that, are rather, volatile/violent, in nature.

Enterprises vs. Establishments: What this really concerns Mr. President is in, many ways referring, to, any, socializing place, as being either, public or, private. The very fact too Mr. President, that for, a harmonious Kenya, where, Criminality issues, do rage, having, more of, Public socializing spots, compared to, Private, is more, recommended. That in many ways, what, they call, Establishments <private socialization such as night clubs>, might be, good, for the, tourism industry, but, for the average Kenyan, Enterprises <public socialization>, such as, the Village Market <which is, rather Nature based>, Public events <such as, Marathons, which too, can be, classified, as, Leisurely activities>, and finally even, the, Carnivore <Monumental

in nature>, are the kind, of, Enterprises, that would, mostly suit, the average Kenyans, socializing needs. All this mainly because, Establishments, have a way, of, dividing, society, in ways that are deemed, irreprehensible. That in all really, Establishments, can create, various, situations, unknowingly that, lead, to social breakdowns, of, all kinds. An example really, are the creation, of, cultural divisions, based on, vernacular languages, and in many ways too, leading, to unneeded, competition, between, these groups, based on, Resource allocation <and access too>, all driven, by, forces, of jealousy, envy and even, hatred. Such cultural formations, can also lead, to, a displaying, of, wealth disparities between groups, and in many ways too, lead, to the creation, of, violent societies, in, one form or another <including, violent arguments themselves>. The end result of it all can be, virulent Tribalism <all based, on, the Vernacular, and not, real Tribes>.

Kenyan Civilians and Cities:

The Kenyan Civilian Mr. President, is an individual who, in many ways, makes, rather heavy use, of, Public Utilities <and especially Electricity>, in one form, or, another. In many ways this is driven somewhat, by, the issue, of, Corruption, that in all, certain areas, of, Kenya/Nairobi, have better, Public Utilities <really, in the form of, Public Facilities, like, Public toilets, Public phones, Public swimming pools>, and all really associated, with, solving, one problem or another. That in Kenya, Public Utilities, are, heavily associated, with, problem solving, compared, to the Western world, where, they are mainly associated with, a Civilized existence <in America, People go swimming, for, the fun of it really, as with, socializing, while, in Kenya, they are mainly, driven, by the heat>.

What is proposed though, for the average Kenyan with a problem to solve, and no answer or solution to it all, is the, turning, of most, Cities, and especially Nairobi, into, Media Cities. There has been, an attempt, to make, Nairobi, into, a more or less, European like City, with, regards really, to relaxation, but, it is deemed, more appropriate, for a Nairobi, with, Councils and Municipalities <taking care, of, most of peoples needs>, that, Nairobi city itself be turned, into a Media City, providing, solutions/answers, to all kinds, of, problems. This in, many ways, will help, a lot, in, dealing with, the problem, of, Corruption, and the usage, of, Public Utilities.

Local Cultures vs. City Cultures: Local Cultures here Mr. President, refers to Indigenous cultures, as seen, in, Councils/Communities themselves, and in many ways too, refer, to, the actual cultures themselves<such as with, fashion, music, drinks and beverages etc.>, and not, the activities, associated, with them. In many ways, one does find that, Local Indigenous cultures, do heavily, influence, the usage, of, Public Utilities/Facilities, in one way, or another. Having said that though, the importance, of, developing, Local Indigenous cultures, lies with, the fact that, those, without, such cultures, are prone to, move around, into, other Councils/Communities, looking, for a culture based, adventure, in them <and in many ways, disrupting, life there>. A Local Indigenous culture, where, people drink a lot, would be, in need, of, more public toilets, than, a culture, with, people, who listen, to music a lot, who might want, a, Public swimming pool in their community. In all with regards to, Media Cities, it is believed that, in many ways really, making a city, like, Nairobi, similar, to European cities <as with, shopping spots all over>, is the way, to go, and in many ways in all too, offering, the sale, of,

all kinds, of things, associated, with, the creation, of, Indigenous culture. This might not be as hard as deemed or believed really, as the creation, of, Local Indigenous cultures, is at, the very heart, of, making most Kenyans, feel, happy, with themselves <at the very present, moment>, and that one, can easily turn to, the, Islamic Countries, of, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and especially, the, United Arab Emirates, in accruing, all kinds, of products/goods <at a cheap price>, that, the average Kenyan, can use, to create, Indigenous culture, all by themselves <it is however believed, that, Kenyan Officials, do turn to, cultural experts, of these, three Countries, in helping them, learn, how to, 'create', Indigenous culture, as with what, Kenyan consumers, would very much wish, to, spend their money on>. In all really, what is been alluded to, is that, problems, associated with, Public Utilities/Facilities usage, actually arise, from, Indigenous cultures. It is also believed that, cultural experts, from those three countries, are more, attuned, with the cultural norms, of, the average Kenyan, than, Westerners/Americans, are. In all, City Cultures, are rather hard, to create in Kenya, as Kenyans in general living, in different parts, of a City, tend, to have, varying, cultural norms.

Internet Cities vs. State Services: This in all Mr. President, refers, to the creation, of, Internet Cities <and Knowledge Villages, such as those, seen, in Dubai>, to in general, replace, State Services <and State Offices, as with, seeking out, help>. In many ways too, this, is in alignment, with, asking, for, E-Government, but really refers to, public spots, in, Nairobi city, where, members of surrounding Municipalities, can easily go to, to, access, the Knowledge of all kinds <via the Internet>, needed in helping, solve, their daily problems. What this means Mr. President, is that, all this is really about, becoming acquainted with, the general problems <and all other problems too>, that, the average Kenyan, faces, and having, their, solutions/answers, available, via the Internet <within a city>. In many ways, this easily, replaces, State Bureaucracy < as even with, applying, for a passport online>, and too, as mentioned before, finding, solutions/answers, to just, about, any problem an, average Kenyan, might have <including, work related problems. One can then, obviously see, the, huge potential, of, private Consultants, who would, help, Kenyans, with any problem, they might, seek, an answer to, for, a price>. This in all, just like, with the above, could be, implemented, right now, to bring, changes, rather quickly, to Kenya <one can also, easily turn, to, the Emirates, with queries, on, how, to create, Internet cities>.

Venture Firms vs. Government Agencies: All this Mr. President, refers really to, the, very fact that, while some parts, of Kenya <Nairobi especially>, are, prosperous in nature, many, other parts, of the Country <including, Nairobi too>, are in need, of, great help, in, one form, or another <as with the slums for example>. Government Agencies, refer to, not only those, operated, by the Government itself, but, in many ways too, what, one could call, NGO's, Human Rights Organizations, and even, Social groups <out to aid people, in one form, or another, as with Volunteer groups>. The belief really Mr. President, that, Venture Capital Firms, are much more, better, at dealing, with, social disasters and upheavals, in one form, or another, than the Government itself <from, hunger, to, lack of housing, to even, psychological damage>. That even, issues, of National Security, as with, ethnic violence, or a lack of jobs, can best, be dealt with, using solutions, from, Venture Firms, than, the Government itself. That the Government invite, as many Venture Firms, to, Kenyan Media Cities, and generally, contract them, in, helping solve, all, kinds, of Societal problems, seen, in Kenya. That in many ways too,

that, the Government at, the moment, mostly turn to, Saudi Arabian, Venture Firms, in helping, deal, with the housing shortages, and even, food shortages, seen, in Kenya <rather than, NGO's, or even, the UN>. In all, these Venture Firms, are seen, as being, more creative, in coming up, with, solutions, that those, affected, will, quickly agree, on.

Kenyan Constituents and Counties:

The Kenyan Constituent Mr. President, is not, only, one, who lives, within, a County, but also, very much too, one, who is, in need, of, Currency/money, at, any one time, and, the general problem, the Government has, of moving, money/cash around. The very fact too, that, the average Kenyan, at any one moment, finds, life in general, rather, difficult in nature, and seeks, to 'rest', in one manner or another <whether it be, a quick drink to quench thirst, or even, a quick rest, at, a public spot>. What is been said in general Mr. President is that, living in Kenya, can be, rather difficult, from, the psychological point of view, if one, accepts the fact that, most, Kenyans at one time, or another, during the day, feel, totally drained, off, energy, in one form, or another. That in general, life, is perceived <and even deemed>, as being, difficult, with simply, getting, things done. For many, who find, life, in Kenya, in general, difficult <from the perspective, of, the atmosphere in general, and, the general moods too>, many are prone, to, eventually turn to, crime, just to survive.

What is generally recommended, for this, known problem, but generally, unacknowledged really <as perhaps, one, being perceived, as being, weak>, are the, following, three measures:

Government Health Initiatives: By Government Health Initiatives, we do not really refer, to, health checkups, or anything like that, but to what, they call, Government Sponsorships, Governments Drives, and even, Government Endowments. Examples of this, not only, include, Public Resting rooms, or even, Public benches too, but also to, Government Drives <such as, the offering, of, free milk, to, school children>, and also to, Government Sponsorships, such as, free, motivational Media <of all kinds>. In all really, these Government Initiatives, should be, used, to deal, with, the Mental health, of, everyday Kenyans.

Religious Institutions: By Religious Institutions Mr. President, we are referring really, to, religious bodies, such as, the, Islamic Society of Kenya, who can, be of great assistance, to the Government, in helping, Kenyans, become, healthy, physically and emotionally. That in many ways, the Government, ask, these bodies, to produce, material, similar in doctrine, to, the religious beliefs, of, the 7th Day Adventists, on helping, Kenyans, become, healthier, physically and emotionally <how to develop, good manners, or even, how, to eat, healthily>. That in many ways in Kenya, more than in, the Western world, daily survival, requires, all kinds, of, physical and emotional efforts, due to the general, difficulty, of surviving, in Kenya <emotionally>.

Self-Help Industry: The Self-Help Industry, while looked down upon, by, most, as an attempt really, to develop, a, good personality, is beneficial really, with regards, to, Character development <Personality development, is mainly associated, with, Indigenous culture>. In many ways, this refers to, self-development, with regards, to, solving problems <even

general>. That in many ways, most, of Kenya's problems, are, Character driven <while those, in the Western world, are Personality driven>, and that, developing Good Character <as with, being, self-conscious, and, conscious of others>, can help one, greatly, in solving, all kinds, of, problems. In many ways, this too, can be, tied in, with, helping Kenyans, develop, Business Identities and Cultures as in, many ways, developing, Character, is all about, learning, Self-marketing, Self-branding, Self-promotions etc. In many ways too, this area alone, can in many ways make for, easily, a rather, prosperous Kenya, in all.

Alan Gicheru