DRUGS, BULLETS AND DEGENERATION

By Francis Mutunge

In a youth base I used to visit, for protection purposes, we once engaged in a discussion on drugs and why people use them, and it was from this discussion where I heard why people consume drugs. Some do it to gain courage and morale to go steal, rob and do other vices and in which police as the defenders of the state have to trace for the same but they find themselves in the same drugs with the same reasons and courage to arrest, but unfortunately some drugs impairs our judgment and that’s how they decide to be the lawyers, judges, prosecutors and even executors, disregarding the duty of maintaining law and order as required.

The youth are engaging in crime; knife theft is on the rise in informal settlements. Also, the police use excess ammunition to operate the business of terrorizing patriotic citizens and the gun is a commodity of trade for extra cash. In a case in Kawangware, a group of three policemen opened fire to one another after they had a successful deal with some robbers and the loot made them die because they were high on alcohol and they failed to properly divide the money.

At first, its starts from local drugs, which are cheap and available then it progresses to addiction leading to petty crimes. People keep graduating to more and more hard drugs and crimes for the purpose of sustaining the addiction and lifestyle. It is from the addiction that dependency is born. In in the streets of Nairobi, the slums of Mathare, Dandora, Kayole, Kibera and other informal settlements in the city, a day never ends without a youth coming and requesting to smoke a joint or using the slang “brejin siuni lit” - a sheng phrase to request to be given/share a joint out of generosity.

The young people who engage in drugs; only peddle or consume drugs and this puts them to more risk in the hands of the corrupt police personnel who always give protection to the business owners of the drugs. Many are the incidents in which those who are found doing drugs are gunned down and labeled a dangerous gang to cover up the abuse of power and arms.

Some drugs like marijuana are having a political twist; many youths are in prison because of smoking it. This contradicts statements made by politicians on how they used to smoke the same drug inside the walls of parliament. This exploitative system will soon burst asunder as people are going underground and organizing masses on how to liberate themselves.

The religious leaders have failed to speak on Truth and Justice but remain to preach the gospel of going to heaven, waiting for our savior Jesus Christ and spiritual prosperity. They play the role of the modern Pharisee in the modern church; they lie to the crowd that the deceased died of unknown circumstances and we ask the Lord “aweke roho yake mahali pema peponi” yet they know the plain truth; that the murder was committed by a uniformed gang and they used bullets. Religious leaders have remained respected for
centuries and it is difficult to understand how they find their hands in degeneration yet no one has raised their finger towards them. In their attempts to increase the sizes of worship places, many people have been displaced and have become squatters in the process and some lost their lives for exchange of land.

No person is against the police killing thieves but we oppose the killings that make police abuse of power thrive, from the assassinations and extra judicial executions they have made which affect our lives either directly or indirectly. It was through the bullet that we lost Thomas Sankara, Muamar Gadaffi and Pio Gama Pinto. In our communities, the list of the young people who have been gunned down for the last 5yrs is disturbing; they are being promised to be groomed to become tomorrow’s leaders but killed today in the evening. It is Karl Marx who once said, “history repeats itself; first as a tragedy and second as farce”. In the same way, it is Albert Einstein who said, “the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results.”

Africa should unite as a continent and fight the continuous degeneration of the youthful and productive persons. Africa needs its people united for the same course and through the protection of the African culture; we shall overcome the deaths created by crimes of capitalism.