Kenyan Expressions presents



By Maik Kwambo Enjoy this book and feel free to use this poetry as you like.(hey! Don't forget to acknowledge the author!) Thank you in advance. Sincerely, Maik Kwambo

THE KENYAN REVOLUTIONARIES

These great revolutionaries are Kenyan Heroes who fought to make our land a better place. This is in their honour.

this is for the revolutionaries who relentlessly pursued their ideals Koitalel arap Samoei who detested the British invasion Harry Thuku...rebelled against the establishment those who were voices for the voiceless Dedan Kimathi...Jomo Kenyatta leaders of the revolution that brought us freedom Pio Gama Pinto...Thomas J. Mboya assassinated for preaching the truth you were outlaws to the oppressors you were heroes to the oppressed J.M.Kariuki...you had a dream of peace, harmony and equality for all some people thought you were crazy and so they killed you but your dream lives on... one day it will come true Masinde Muliro...Oginga Odinga you fought for democratic space David Munyakei...Wangare Maathai you are the revolutionaries who had no fear fought to free the people from the forces of evil Wahome Mutahi...Ngugi wa Thiong'o spoke about social injustice in the wittiest ways Daudi Kabaka...Fundi Konde gave us sweet rhythms to relax the mind Kadenge na mpira...Kipchoge Keino great sons of Kenya...gave us a sense of self-belief when everyone thought we couldn't do it Lazaro Sumbeiywo...Tecla Lorupe preaching peace restoring hope to the most downtrodden these are great people...heroes'...revolutionaries inside every one of us there is a revolutionary we must speak out and act when things go wrong then...the world will be a better place

UNSUNG HERO...A TRIBUTE TO DAVID MUNYAKEI

to David Munyakei...a brave Kenyan who blew the lid on corrupt dealings in the Kenyan government in 1993. He was sacked and langusihed for years in the doldrums. He died on 16th July 2006 aged 38. poor and disappointed

they shed their tears offer glowing tribute too little..too late

they made promises to take care of you but now you are gone

you were lion hearted risked your career to save the nation

instead you were villified demonized

the politicians wanted change used you as a voice in the fight against corruption

they achieved their goal left you alone suffering silently

so the news broke that you were gone thats when they remembered you

they shed their tears offer glowing tribute too little..too late

they made promises to take care of you but now you are gone

David Munyakei I never knew you but you were a hero

a big hearted hero a patriot who suffered wrongly

nothing can undo the past so we must fight corruption as we keep your memories alive

rest in peace

KITU KIDOGO

I come to you in need of service but you want "kitu kidogo" to get the job done

yet it is my right but you act as if it is a privillege to me

I will not bribe you or pay you "kitu kidogo" doing so only gives a blessing to corruption

brothers and sisters fellow Kenyans "kitu kidogo" has had a big bad effect on the country

poor service delivery increased rates of crime deadly avoidable accidents all because of "kitu kidogo"

let us learn to demand what is rightfully our without using shortcuts that only encourage corrupt dealings

the reputation of our nation lies in our hands...our actions...our deeds let us encourage honesty and integrity even in the most tempting of situations

times are hard...life is tough but resist the urge to give or receive "kitu kidogo" hard work done honestly breeds sweet success

THE JIGGERS IN MY FEET

the effect of corruption on a country's economy is similar to the pain caused by jiggers in a person's foot...it is crippling...

the jiggers in my feet are sucking all my blood draining all of my energy I have no strength to work

these jiggers are killing me demanding more from me leading me to a painful death how did I let them infect me?

I remember the pain in my toe but I ignored it this pain went on but still I took no notice

little did I know the jiggers were multiplying the pain I used to ignore now became total discomfort

I discarded my shoes I discarded my socks I used to walk with a limp now I barely move

family and friends had urged me to seek help a long time ago but I denied I had a problem I only acknowledged this the other day

my international mother and father no longer welcome me to their hosue they say my infection is totally unacceptable they say I have to get rid of the jiggers to be welcomed again

ouch! it is really painful getting rid of all these jiggers slowly but surely I am getting rid of them and I know one day I will be free of jiggers

I will be more vigilant taking extra care of my feet will not tolerate any pain in my toes I say no to jiggers!

WHEN YOU GET TO PARLIAMENT

when you get to parliament don't you dare forget me I gave you a job to look after my interests so when you get there you had better get down to business

I am longing for development ...a better society tired of the inequality the rich are getting richer while the poor keep getting poorer when you get to parliament you had better put me first

you are my voice out there don't you complain I am the one who is hiring you but if you fail to live up to my expectations you are hereby warned

when you get to parliament I expect all round attention no disappearing tricks from you no scandals...no arrogance I expect a good job from you when you get to parliament don't you dare forget me

WE CHOSE YOU

Most of our Members of Parliament only remember us during election time.

We chose you to represent us, we chose you to articulate our needs, we chose you to develop our home. Off you go, forgetting about us, off you go, forgetting about home. Here you are, sitting in parliament, here you are, riding in your fancy car. We try to approach you, but your body guards chase us away; yet we are the ones who voted you in. All you seem to do is enjoy the hefty salary, getaways at the secluded beach resort. You only come home when faced with crisis, giving handouts so that you can buy loyalty. When everything is sorted, you disappear again. Our dear legislator, we are getting tired of your tricks, you need to read between the lines..or you shall be consigned to the dustbin of history.

THEY STILL WON'T QUIT

We have leaders who insist on clinging on to positions of power, even when they are overwhelmingly implicated in wrong-doing.

They still won't quit, with all the guilt written on their faces. They still won't quit, with all the evidence that is unfabricated. They still won't quit, even when their actions implicate them. They still won't quit, even when it is the right thing to do.

Hanging on to power like leeches, draining the people's riches. Justifying their actions, but nothing seems to make any sense. Looking for scapegoats to take the blame, acting like little children when provoked. Their actions bring shame to us... but they still won't quit.

And when they quit, they start making noise about how their enemies forced them out. All along their arrogance and disrespect brought to where they are. Why can't they just accept that their time is up...

AFFLUENCE AND POVERTY

affluence and poverty the story of our society humility and arrogance the tragic circumstance of life in this part of the world the leaders line their pockets forget about their people

humbly you came to us seeking to be a leader overwhelmingly we chose you off you went...forgot about us busy fighting your own wars living large...amassing wealth your people struggle to stay alive

you used to be so friendly to us accomodating...receptive...helpful but since you tasted power you surround yourself with bodyguards your goons manhandle the harmless people coming to you in search of much needed assistance

only concerned with looking after your own your own friends...your own ego...your own interests looking for ways of enlarging your powerbase reluctant to speak out against social injustice unwilling to empower your people and steer them towards prosperity and progress..is it a surpirse that affluence and poverty is the sad story of our society?

DADDY

This is a poem about governments who round up the poor and homeless when hosting major events, lock them up and release them after the event is over.it also touches on governments who neglect the needs of their people such as security and development and only act when it too late in the day...

daddy...this is your son the not so handsome one I have pimples on my face and really bad body odour when the visitors come you lock me up in a room and when they are gone you quickly unlock the door

daddy...this is your daughter the one whose husband beats her up abusing me and the children but you always fail to intervene turning a blind eye as if to encourage him the other day he beat me to pulp you reacted a little too late

daddy...this is your family your long suffering family we are neglected helplessly watching you only taking care of yourself daddy...we call out to you to honour your obligation to us we depend on you...please look after us

ALL THE SIGNS

The famine situation in Africa is quite serious. It is largely a man made problem as more emphasis tends to be laid on politics rather than policies.

All the signs were there, the fights with my brother over water and food. You just gave a glance, paying more attention to your endless scams. Soon the fights got worse, spread to other houses in the neighbourhood. Soon the whole village was crying out, crying out because of no food. Only then, after so much damage did you respond. Acting all so shocked, when you knew all along there was trouble. Now our people die, hunger and starvation the cause of death. we have so much food, it never got to the people on time. You have no one to blame, you must take responsibility for your own actions. To you politics is more important than the lives of your people. What use are starving people to you? What use are dying people to you? Open up your eyes and face reality, dont cry foul..all the signs were there.

INDEPENDENT? A REPRESENTATION OF ANY AFRICAN COUNTRY...

Independent? So many years ago my home land is declared independent, Independent? yes independent. free from control or influence of others, financially self reliant, capable of acting for oneself or on one's own

Independent? yes independent are we really sure? poverty levels are at an all time high hunger and starvation decimating the nation, heavily dependent on foreign aid yet the country is rich...yet the country is blessed

we have raiders from foreign lands attacking our people...stealing their cattle but our response to them is apalling...full of hesitance we are always looking outwards to solve our internal problems when shall we realise that we alone hold the key to our progress only then can we be truly independent

AFRICA

self sufficiency not dependency is the way forward for my people

but every single day I stretch out my hand asking for help from my benefactors

how long will this go on? habits we cannot condone foreign experts telling me how to plant my crops

I am a rich person languishing in poverty my productive land is covered in bushes

people of Africa look at your resources you are rich and have the ability to be self sufficient

so...stop the wars stop the petty politics unite for the sake of the people to build a peaceful...self reliant continent

SO MANY QUESTIONS

In all religions God is love and the giver of life he encourages peace and harmony cordial relations among all mankind so why do we kill in his name? thousands of lives senseless taken away is there no tolerance amongst us? are we unable to appreciate our diversity?

I need to be able to have views different from yours and still be your friend sometimes I walk down the street and people sneer because of the colour of my skin yet deep down we are all the same are we unable to appreciate our diversity?

they deny you the right to property because of your gender they say no to your education they want you to stay home and take care of the house just because you are female can't they see that you are equally capable of success are we unable to appreciate our diversity?

SUPER PARANOID

just because the bomb went off so many years ago doesn't justify you blocking off all the roads to your home the terrorists came and proved their point they have no use for you I understand your insecurities but you are chasing everyone away I know that you cannot afford to drop your guard but please don't be super paranoid

you met a man you fell in love it was the best time of your life and in no time you were expecting his baby told him the news..thought he will be thrilled instead he packed his bags and left I know it hurts but life goes on don't treat every man with suspicion please be strong..don't be super paranoid

you and her were the best of friends everybody thought you were sisters stories of life and love you shared until one day she broke the news said she was sick with H.I.V now you avoid her like the plague she is your friend she needs your hand but you don't want to close to her any more you are super paranoid

I HATE WATCHING THE NEWS

i simply hate watching the news. I could recite the first twenty minutes without having to get a sneak preview of the headlines.

I hate watching the news, it is so predictable, politicians speaking gibberish, they sound so juvenile. Why cant they deal with important issues, like unemployment, the environment, rising crime and H.I.V, instead they only care about their image, plotting schemes on how to line their pockets. Our forests are getting depleted, educated, unemployed youth are turning to crime. Our leaders dont seem to notice this, they are too busy smearing the names of their opponents. The economy is taking a battering, our donors are withdrawing their funding...this does not seem to bother them at all. What matters most for them is hitting the headlines. Oh! I hate watching the news

WIFE BEATER

suave...smooth...sophisticated you cut the image of a lover who is dedicated to his wife...to her life...to the family but no one really knows the reality you treat her like dirt snuff the life out of her she puts a lot of make up to cover the scars you inflict with your fists and the verbal abuse you justify your actions...claim she had it coming thats not suave ... smooth and sophisticated your actions are rough...crude and so outdated there is no prestige in beating up the love of your life the mother of your children...the source of so much happiness in doing so you lack respect for yourself you lack respect for your children you lack respect for life itself wife beater...great pretender cutting a picture of harmony on the inside but on the inside you are a menace get a hold of yourself before you beat your wife to pulp

FOR THE BEATEN UP WIFE

still speaking about spousal abuse...the loud silence that exists in society yet this is a serious problem

For the beaten up wife She was so vibrant...the life of the party but now...she is pale shadow of herself she spends hours putting on make up to hide the marks that were not there before in the back of her mind she wants to leave him but lacks the courage to walk out that door

she was a career girl...a bright future lay ahead now she is straddled with three kids... a boy...a girl...and her abusive husband she keeps hoping that he will change but the beatings and abuse just keep coming harder...more vicious than ever

how long can this go on? which kind of man dares abuse his wife how long will this be swept under the rug? do we have to wait until she lays dead in the morgue to stand up and speak up against this absurdity? if he hits you...he simply does not love and respect you

to the ladies...girlfriends and wives caught up in these abusive situations take these chains and break them completely no love should cause you so much pain it sounds crazy but no matter how much you love him walk away before it gets too late..

LAMENT TO A RAPIST

beautiful ladies...handsome men scarred pasts...sad stories to tell they were robbed... by someone much worse than a thief they never had the courage to tell so they suffered in silence... but their silence is broken... they were robbed of their innocence maybe by an uncle,aunt...or close family friend someone we looked up to as a pillar of society

little baby precious...only a few years old yet she wears such a serious expression you would think she was a grown up with all the household chores you would no doubt pity her but what makes me want to cry is that she doubles up as daddy's play thing she barely knows what she wants from life but in another six months she will welcome another life into the world what happened? you may ask... we lay the blame on her daddy he used her..abused her..and now disowns her

what is going on in the world today? have we lost our minds? we rape our mothers... grandmothers do we hate our women that much to inflict so much hurt and pain on them? have we no respect for the young.... the innocent...the leaders of tomorrow what hope do we give them when we continually rape and maim them society looks on...too afraid to speak... fearing it will spoil the existing harmony that is totally untrue...

we try to justify rape.. that is like justifying evil... that she provoked you into raping her is a whole bunch of bullsh*t! and still you have no apologies are you a merciless beast? how would you feel if your sister or your mummy suffered too you would want to cry... probably kill the sick bastard that did this to your flesh and blood guess what...dear rapist that is how society feels disgusted...is how society feels

CHAMELEON

Men who beat up their women..then apologize..then beat them up again are like chameleons

you swept her off her feet she fell head over heels and in no time the both of you were sharing matrimonial bliss but suddenly you changed from a loving husband to a brutal beast inflicting pain in her physically..mentally ...emotionally after all is said and done you say you are deeply sorry that you will never do it again then suddenly you snap and you are back to doing what you do best beating her up the cycle goes on you apologize shower her with love but in no time you pile on the abuse get a hold of yourself you need help...

SHAMELESS MAN

she was only looking for a good time accepted his invitation for a night out on the town everything was going great he was the perfect gentleman treating her with great respect she could not tell the evil plan he had

somewhere along the way while they were having drinks at the club she excused herslef to go to the ladies room that is when he pounced and slipped something into her drink when she came back he deftly suggested that they should call it a night

he offered to drop her home...she agreed and in her private thoughts she liked this man but between the club and her place the lady was now dazed the man smiled...happy that he has found himself some easy prey he took her to his house...

she fell unconcious on the bed our perfect gentleman now changed became cold hearted...violated her when she woke up he fed her with lies making her feel guilty... like the whole ordeal was her making shameless man...

IT'S BETTER THAT IT HURTS RIGHT NOW

In an abusive relationship? Walk away when you still can

it's better that it hurts you need to walk away instead of holding on to memories of what used to be

he has changed is no longer the person you fell in love with you are miles apart...emotionally

both of you seem to be in parallel universes living totally different lives having very different ideals

you view him as the love of your life but he holds you in contempt and treats you so bad but still you insist on holding on

every time you pick up the phone you find yourself playing russian roulette soon and very soon he will say the words that will shatter every inch of your soul

please do not get too comfortable if he is still treating you this way every day you hope he will change love is not a game...do not torture yourself

it's better that you walk away right now it's better that you walk away when you can instead of looking back and being filled with sorrow and regret...

JANE

this is the story of a sad little ghetto girl let's call her Jane...thirteen years old

you see Jane is a very clever girl but things are not going well

she is the youngest in a family of six two brothers...a sister..mum and dad dad is at Kamiti Maximum...doing time for robbery

her mother works hard every day to put food on the table she has no time for the children

her two brothers joined a gang...one got killed the other keeps his father company at Kamiti Maximum her sister killed herself in tragic circumstances

Anne..her sister...met a man...dropped out of school only fifteen years old...six months pregnant the man said he had nothing to do with the pregnancy

Jane looks on...overwhelmed by what is going on her young impressionable mind tells her there is no hope but an inner voice urges her to keep working hard

she needs to do whatever she can to avoid slipping into the world of drugs..sex..and violence with focus...discipline..dedication and prayer she can make it

Jane...things look dark right now you feel as though you are alone but keep your head up...better days lie ahead

LITTLE GHETTO BOY

I am in a two man cell with twenty seven other men all charged with crimes ranging from burglary to murder the consequences of my actions begin to hit me hard prospects of living the rest of my life behind bars really scares me

this is how it started I was a misplaced youth trying hard to fit in the local gang gave me a task to rob the local filling station and get the money to them this I did with resounding success but in the process I was careless

left my fingerprints all over the place was captured on CCTV carrying out this act in no time the police caught up with me I tried to get away but they shot me in the thigh hauled me off to jail gave me the charge of robbery with violence for which there is no bail...I suffer in hell regret fills my thoughts every single day

I am only nineteen yet I waste away a little ghetto boy...a petty thief locked up with drug dealers..rapists and killers why did I do what I did? all because I wanted to fit in with my peers and gain their acceptance this is the sad story of a little ghetto boy

MATATU

me and you share the perfect love hate relationship I love you because sometimes you go out of your way to get me there I hate it when you are full of contempt and disrespectful but the truth is I need you you need me too so why can't we reach an understanding to be nice to each other you are the backbone of my society a whole culture exists because of you you are an industry on your own giving hope to the hopeless life to the lifeless colour to the colourless do you know how great you are? maybe if you knew how great you were you would go to great lengths to improve and everybody would have respect for you

WATER

more influential than the United Nations every one is neutral when dealing with you all opinions...all differences are cast aside you are the only person without an enemy water...the source of life the source of conflict between nations the key ingredient in many a ritual water...cleanses us and nourishes the fields in which our foods grow and our animals graze water...we neglect you abuse you to the extent that you are filled with so much poison and pose a threat to our lives yet you do us no wrong but we continue to torture you feed you with dangerous chemical waste ...and raw sewerage water...every one covets you but they treat you really bad destroying the catchment areas that are the sources of the rivers the rivers that carry dear water to the lakes and seas and when you suffer the world suffers too your scarcity causes thirst, hunger, drought and wars you are valuable...so precious to us water...I long to see you flow so clear...so clean...so serene ...oh...water!

SALT IN MY WOUNDS

some times in life we slip up, make silly mistakes, we realise our mistakes, show our remorse. we try to move on with life but at times we get judged harshly by society. i'm not trying to justify anyone's mistakes, i just want to offer a different perspective

Said what I had to say, did what I had to do. I am not trying to justify my actions, I am just telling why I did the things I did. I know I made mistakes before, I have no one to blame but myself. When I tell you what I am going through, you accuse me of looking for sympathy from you. You should know that is the last thing I expect, but I am appalled when you keep bringing up issues from the past. You talked about forgive and forget, but you hold on to the past, you smile in my face...you sneer behind my back. And when I tell you I am turning my life around, you encourage me,only for you to kill my morale with your snide remarks. There you are, acting like you never slipped up before, up on your pedestal, acting so high and mighty. It seems you have forgotten how everyone encouraged you to get back on your feet again. Like I said before, I am not justifying my actions. And I think you should know, they haunt me every day of my life. I am not looking for sympathy, call me arrogant if you have to. what I would like for you to do is to find it in your heart to let go. I know it is hard, especially when we all make mistakes, but we can only grow with each others' support. Call me a dreamer, but that is my prayer, that is my wish. But if it is not possible, it is not possible. I will just have to put up with your hurt and pain. I know that in future I will be alright, even when you say people are lying to me that my life has turned around. I am determined, I will succeed even if you try so hard to put me down.

LIFE THROUGH MY EYES

for the people on the verge of giving up...there is hope...just be positive

I try to smile but all the time the sorrow shows in my eyes I am barely holding on to llife opportunities are slipping through my fingers people tell me to be strong tomorrow will be a better day but when i wake up in the morning I end up feeling worse than yesterday

everyday I am growing older but I am still stuck in the same situation all the optimism I had on first of january faded away the last time I changed the calendar there is no one to turn to.. no one to talk to I am steadily resisting the temptation to turn to crime my desparation is growing by the minute ridiculous thoughts are running through my mind

as it is right now.. I am doubting my existence the low self esteem drives me towards suicidal tendencies now I am thinking out loud "if I am gone the world will not miss me" and now I am heavily contemplating what method to use to end my life but the positive inner voice inside of me helps me realise my stupidity it gives me the strength to hold on and face the next day I must admit that life is difficult but I know I will be successful no matter what the challenges posed by living my life

PRESSURE

we all wish to sleep in beds of roses how wrong we are life is designed to be tough so let us not complain consider it all joy when you encounter various trials

let us brace ourselves for the danger project your thoughts to the future make a point of reshaping your attitude never let your negative attitude prevail whatever the circumstances we must not be fatalistic in our attitudes

get rid of the negative prepare for the pressure pressure is disguised as different circumstances life is made up of rough...rocky circumstances we must look beyond the pressure and bear up we need to see God's purpose for our lives we must stand,bear up and endure pressure perfects us...completes us

CHOOSE TO GROW

invest in literature and other teachings they say that knowledge is power do not bankrupt your mind and starve your heart dare to embrace change ...and new ideas too looking for growth? identify your key weakness cut it up...burn it up and activate your growth learn from your own mistakes and the mistakes of others knowledge is exploding all around you learn how to run with success a bigger picture awaits you real success is becoming what God wants you to become doing what God wants you to do and possessing what God wants you to own achieve the goals God set for you ...then you shall be successful choose to grow

POSITIVE...A TRIBUTE TO ALL THOSE LIVING WITH H.I.V

there is a lot of stigma towards people living with HIV positive.the treatment they receive from society is at atimes appalling.it is possible to live positively with HIV

positive... the status of my H.I.V negative... your attitude towards me nonchalant... is how I choose to be pretenders... you allegedly sympathise with me true colours... you show them when I turn my back pity... I surely do not need it right now life... I am full of it and I am living understanding... I have a condition like anyone else positive... the status of my attitude determination... is filled inside of me oh yes.. I have the will to live I am positive... in every aspect of the word!

JUST ONE MORE TEAR

for my dear beloved late sister, Esther... R.I.P and also all those who have lost a loved one...

since you left to take your place in the heavenly abode I find it hard to accept that you are no longer with us we were soldiers...shoulder to shoulder you were my strength in times of weakness always stayed cool even times got bad you were far too good for this world always thought you would be around never thought that you would be leaving there are days when I am strong other days I just break down in tears losing you so suddenly was a real big blow I know that you would want me to move on but the memories just linger on and though I will try to be strong today I need to shed just one more tear for you until we meet againrest in peace

TUPIGE KURA

nyumbani kwetu afrika ama kwa kweli inashida vita..ufisadi..umasikini..ugonjwa zimetumaliza

usiku nikilala mimi huiota ndoto ya kwamba maisha iko shuari

lakini nikiamka asubuhi shida ni zile zile viongozi wetu wanazidi kupora mali

kila siku tunazidi kulalamika ya kwamba serikali haijali masilahi yetu

kura yako kweli ni haki yako na kama hauna..hebu jisajili haraka upesi na wakati wa kupiga kura tuwachague viongozi wanaoaminika

tupige kura

Thank you for going through this e-book.Please send any feedback to <u>michaelkwmambo@yahoo.co.uk</u>. Your comments will be highly appreciated.Thank you and God bless.

Maik Kwambo