

LAWYER REPUTATION: CHANGE OF TACTIC.

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Self-improvement means wanting to make better, some (if not all) aspects of our lives. It is logical to Act on past mistakes and realizations to make today and the future better than yesterday.

Legal profession today is flawed with negative public perception not only in Kenya, but globally. Legal practitioners have been doing all they can; holding service weeks and judicial marches in a bid to advance the professions reputation positively. My advice to them is that they need to stop worrying about the professions reputation because it's a lost cause.

Public perception comes with direct contact. Lawyers have been perceived to be expensive, corrupt, defend criminals and political to an extent they became unruly during the Law Society of Kenya annual general meeting. Yes, I am aware of the freedom of expression enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya. Do these lawyers yell and be uncontrollable in their own meeting and then call for service weeks and judicial marches. Really, who is going to take you seriously?

A change of tactic in approaching the bad reputation is what they need. The greatest impact will be achieved not by preaching, but rather through modeling. Modeling is something which everyone in the profession ought to do. Lawyer's job is service oriented. The only way the can ensure that the quality of service is appreciable, is through changing how they treat clients and how they associate amongst themselves. When the service is noble, everything else will fall into place.

Lawyers have a role to play in the society, and it is imperative that they play it. However, this does not mean that the public will like it.

