

## KENYAN WOMEN AT DUSK:

# Where is FIDA?



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## editor's digest

The main gender identities in a family/society setting need not necessarily be positively hostile towards each other as none of them can subsist alone but the current sound of FIDA's silence is rather surprising because gender-based violence against women is so clearly an increasing problem in the country Kenya now taking the form of normalcy-as being part of a Kenyan woman's life, but, the farther we penetrate into the primitive history of thought, the farther we find ourselves from a conception of progress and development which all along it resembles. To ask for action from the government is rather rhetoric but from FIDA-Kenya, I cannot help asking for something more, for some central notion which shall account not only for the elimination of gender based violence but also for its permanence. It may be doubted whether this quest can be successful.

As time progresses, so do we; or rather we strive to. I therefore welcome you to the Ninth issue of Kenyan Legal magazine; this is it-It's Real Kenya, Real Issues. Be my guest.

REGARDS,

*Michael*

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## Raila's Grand Return and what It Portends for the Ruling Coalition Jubilee

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**T**he return of former Prime Minister and Leader of the Cord Coalition Mr. Raila Odinga has revitalized and re-energized the opposition which in the recent past seemed to have been silenced by the ruling coalition jubilee. The Coalition lead by the honorable former Premier is overwhelmingly outnumbered in both the National Assembly and the Senate by the ruling Coalition Jubilee and this has made it very difficult for the opposition to push their agendas through.

The return of the former Premier has served to re-energize an opposition that seemed to have been overwhelmed by the government of the day which ordinarily will be happy to have a weakened opposition. Mr. Raila Odinga has been on a 3 months visit to the USA organized by the African Presidential Centre in collaboration with Boston University. The organization brings together former heads of state and respected dignitaries from all over the world to tour the US and give lectures on African Politics and matters affecting the international community.

The former Premier while speaking to Citizen Anchor Hussein Mohammed in their Nairobi-based studio dismissed claims that he had been out of the country for health-related issues. He further reiterated that he was in good health and that he had gone to the US on invitation by the African Presidential Centre. He also contended that during the trip he attended classes on genetically modified foods (GMOs) and on Climate Change where he gained valuable

knowledge on the two pertinent issues affecting the world at large.

When asked what impact his return will have on the Kenyan Politics and the Kenyan Politics as a whole. He said that he had returned to help

solve the problems that have bedeviled the country since he left for the three months invitational tour to the US. He made reference to the increased insecurity in the country, high living conditions and a polarized country as some of the reasons he had called for a

National

Dialogue. Mr. Odinga also emphasized the need for the ruling coalition and the opposition to have a National Dialogue to find solutions to the issues affecting the country.

He dismissed claims that the Cord Coalition was planning to overthrow the ruling coalition through unconstitutional means if they refused to have the National Dialogue slated for 7th July 2014 popularly known as "SABASABA DAY". This day is historically associated with a push for reforms and an all-inclusive government. He also refuted claims that giving the government 60 days to agree to a National Dialogue amounted to giving the government an ultimatum failure to

**"He dismissed claims that the Cord Coalition was planning to overthrow the ruling coalition through unconstitutional means ..."**

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which it will face unspecified consequences. He instead chose to refer to the sixty days as a time frame within which the said National Dialogue should take place.

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When asked whether the calls for a National Dialogue had a legal backing. He answered an emphatic Yes, all the time making reference to Article 1 of the Constitution of Kenya © 2010 which inter alia provides that; all the sovereign power belong to the people of Kenya and shall be exercised only in accordance with the Constitution. He also indicated that in our case this sovereign power is exercised through delegated authority by democratically elected representatives.

When asked why the Coalition had chosen to call for a National Dialogue to address issue affecting the people of Kenya instead of using the Constitutionally established structures and organs like the Judiciary, the National Assembly and the Senate. He made reference to the reconciliatory role that only a National Dialogue can play. He also criticized Parliament for voting based on their political affiliation through what has come to be known as the “Tyranny of numbers” a phrase originally coined by Political Analyst Mutai Ngunyi.

While criticizing the National Assembly in the way it has politicized the issues affecting Kenyans, he referred to them as Voting machines, referring to the way they unanimously vote to either pass or defeat a bill brought by the opposition.

Mr. Odinga also dismissed claims that the planned public rallies across the country were meant to incite the public to revolt against the government of the day. He further reiterated that the public rallies planned across the country were

meant to get the public views on the pertinent issues affecting them which they want addressed.

The former premier also dismissed claims that by his core principal and Wiper Leader Mr. Kalonzo Musyoka talking of an all-inclusive government, he was referring to the Coalition sort of government that was created following the Serena talks. While dismissing this line of thinking, he reiterated that the Cord Coalition was not interested in a Coalition Government, instead it was interested in finding pragmatic solutions to the pertinent issues affecting the people of Kenya which can't wait for 2017 Elections.

Top on the list of the issues the former Premier wants urgently addressed is: the escalating level of insecurity across the country, the skewed state appointments and the disbandment of the Interim Electoral and Boundaries Commission [ IEBC] because of the way they conducted the March 4 Elections. Emphasizing that in an Electoral exercise the referee must be neutral failure to which questions on the credibility of the whole process will always be disputed.

The issues being raised by the Cord Coalition might in the lenses appear genuine and may resonate well with most of Kenyans who live below a dollar a day however, there is need for the opposition to use constitutionally established channels and structures to air the views. On the other hand, the government should trend carefully by moving with speed to address the issues affecting the public least they lose legitimacy and empower the opposition.

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