

ARGUE YOUR CASE

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One afternoon, I was seated in a matatu headed home. Somewhere en route the conductor came round picking fare. Well, being some minutes to four in the evening we normally pay fifty shillings. The conductor was asking for seventy shillings instead, everyone gave him without question (apparently ignoring the fact that he was asking for so much). When he got to where I was sited I paid without question but the young guy seated next to me gave him fifty shillings. He refused to take saying it was seventy, the young guy seated next to me told him he was only going to pay fifty shillings because it is what should rightfully be paid at that time of day.



I wondered how many people were sited in that bus but did not speak on the injustice. How many people chose to sit in silence and not be seen as a penny pincher? Then it occurred that my country is full of such people, who just sit and not react but when you are alone or in a tiny group, we hear how much you hate injustice.

How many times do we sit down in those idle groups and just listen. Listen to each other state the loopholes in the law. How the penal code needs to be revised to accommodate new emerging crimes? How the criminal and civil procedures need to be reviewed to deal with backlogs that have developed over the years and prevent future backlog?

How many times do we sit down and blame somebody? Oh, correction, sit down and look for someone to blame for our silence? Yes, when you choose to sit and watch we encourage all the evils.

We choose not to speak our mind when we see that police take the bribe from an offender. When we see our neighbors mistreat a child and do nothing about it. When we help steal by keeping silence and not call the police.

Yes, they did that but it did not affect me. Well that would be how you see it. Did you ever think that you may have suffered an injustice once and someone else kept silence and watched? They just sat there, passed by or worst of all laughed at you!

We need to find the voice that our country needs. The one that will make all sleeping fellows feel threatened and do their job; that one voice that will salvage this country from its fast sinking state.

The voices that will bring decency back to the legal profession and make advocates go back to their roots. The voice, which this country is in desperate need of.

The good news is that the voice is here with us. It is not something we have to wait for or fetch from somewhere else. It never left. It was silenced and we can revive it. We can be part of the generation that will actively participate in taking this country where we want it to be.

Imagine for a second what a world this would be if we spoke up. If we let each, other explains their position and states their case. If we spoke against all the things that decay our society and makes us not develop towards the country we all want to see. So speak up! Argue your case!

