

Human diversity is mutually enriching

Before the elections were held in December most people were interacting freely and they enjoyed each other's company. For example, I recall a few of my friends who stayed together and every time I met them, they were together. Martin, John and Odhiambo were also all working in the same company. As the elections drew closer, definitely all of them had different views about the presidential candidates and political parties because they came from different backgrounds; John was a Kikuyu, Martin was a Taita and Odhiambo a Luo.

The elections date came, each cast his vote; they were anxious to know the results. Following the news reports, Odhiambo was very happy because ODM, the party he was supporting was ahead and John wasn't happy because Odhiambo influenced him to choose a councilor who wasn't his favourite, but was a friend to Odhiambo.

Final results were announced and John's party was declared the winner in the presidential elections and Odhiambo's friend lost the civic election. John was very happy and started dancing and singing Kikuyu songs, which eventually annoyed Odhiambo, who was devastated by the results.

John kept on bragging about the win and this made Odhiambo become more sad and eventually he poured water on John's clothes, which made John become sad and start abusing Odhiambo about his ethnic background and much more. They then started fighting physically. Martin tried to separate them but he could not because he did not know what was the cause of the fight, so he called the neighbours to assist. They tried but Odhiambo walked out and never came back for two weeks.

Martin (a cousin of mine) came home and told us what had happened and asked for my help. We sat down and agreed the best way is for them to understand each other. The next day we went to where they lived and we found them watching television and not speaking to each other. Martin started to crack some jokes and I noticed that they were laughing. Martin told me that we could start the talks to resolve their differences.

We prayed for a while after which we started to talk. We told them to forgive each other and live like brothers - like they used to live before the elections. We made each one understand that everyone has a right to his opinion and also to respect the other. They eventually understood each other and they usually thank us for bringing back their friendship. They understood that human diversity is mutually enriching and now cherish it.

Mshimba Wencelaus Mwajela
BCOM First Year