

BETRAYAL IN THE CITY

About the play Betrayal in the City.

The play is a story of a post independent African country that had the misfortune of experiencing the effects of a repressive and a dictatorial regime. It is a sad story of a state failed by bad politics, tribalism nepotism inefficiency and corruption which are perpetuated by top government officials .The play portrays the dilemma and failures of post-colonial African leadership.

The head of state Kafira – Boss is a tragic failure as a leader. He trusts his corrupt and inept advisors who take advantage of their privileged positions to perpetuate corruption and impunity. Boss himself is so rigid that he cannot give room for divergent views. Those who try to raise their voices to oppose his leadership are ruthlessly eliminated.

The death of a university student Adika inspires a chain of reactions from the students and other radicals until the evil regime is finally brought down through a bloodless coup staged by Juser-a university student. The elimination of Mulili, Boss's advisor, who literally oversaw the elimination of most government opponents and the face of terror brings some hope of a new beginning.; the building of a new kingdom where there will be justice and inclusion of all.

Act One

Scene 1 summary analysis and Commentary.

When the play opens, we are at Adika's grave. His parents, Doga (father) and Nina (mother) have come at the graveyard as they plan to hold a shaving ceremony for their departed son. They are surprised to find a crack in the grave and wonder how it came about and where Juser -their son who was asked to guard the grave is.

The grief stricken parents cannot come to terms to the fact that the presumed killers of their son have now followed him to the grave. The violation of the grave confirms the rumours that however killed him lives amongst them. Nina threatens to hang herself

and raise a curse upon a whole clan if they should harm their son Jusper. With Adika's death, Doga is pessimistic and cannot see any hope even in Jusper. " we buried our hope the day Adika was gunned down" (pg 2).

Nina is of the opinion that that they report the matter to the sub-chief but Doga violently opposes this, sure that it was the sub-chief's family that caused adika's death from the fact that it was chagaga, the sub-chief's brother who killed him. (pg3). Doga insists that Nina should fetch soil so that he can use it to seal the crack at the grave. Nina exits.

Through a monologue (pg4), Doga reveals to us the circumstances of adika's death: He was gunned down during a student demonstration in the city. His body was riddled with four bullets. He also reveals to us that during adika's burial, Jusper Adikas brother, was arrested supposedly for being a danger to peace. He was then held in custody for three days .Also from the monologue, we learn that traditions condemn the shedding of a kinsman's blood.

At this time, Jusper arrives (pg5) on the scene and Doga hides briefly. When Nina comes back with the soil, the three, parents and son, talk at cross purposes- they misunderstand one another (pg7). Jusper says that he has killed somebody. He says, *he can't go he is dead* (pg6). He has actually killed Chagaga but the parents believe that he is confused and talks about killing adika, his brother whose grave is there where they are. Jusper then leaves.

Mulili and Jere arrive with order to stop the shaving ceremony (which Jusper's parents are preparing for from taking place in the interest of peace. Doga insists on doing the shaving ceremony. Mulili and Jere reveal to the parents' surprise that Jusper has killed Chagaga (pg 11-12) and is under arrest a reason why the two Jere and Mulili have been sent to guard the grave. A confrontation ensues between Mulili and the couple whereby Mulili tells them that even the grave doesn't belong to them. Nina threatens to strip naked making Jere to strike a conciliatory tone. Doga reminds Jere that he ought to respect them owing to the fact that he and Jere's father shared the same knife at

circumcision .This makes Jere to sympathize with the old couple something that ires Mulili. Mulili and Jere disagree over the issue of the ceremony as Mulili stresses that it should not go on while Jere insist that they should be sympathetic and let it go on (pg13). Nina and Doga leave.

After Nina and Doga exit, Jere and Mulili are left quarrelling. Jere openly tells Mulili he disgusts him for mistreating the old couple. He pleads with him to let the old couple go on with the ceremony. Mulili is adamant and accuses Jere of being chicken hearted. Already boss has promised him a big farm and cattle if he is able to keep law and order. (Pg 13).As the confrontation between the two continues, Jere aims a pistol at Mulili and shoots. However Mulili manages to escape unhurt but not without vowing to revenge.

This scene sets the central conflict in the play. We are introduced to a situation where the rulers and the ruled are in conflict. Death has occurred of a student leader, Adika, and the leadership feels jittery. They prevent the performance of a traditional rite of honouring the dead fearing intensification of political activism. Revenge is witnessed where Jusper, Adika's brother, murders Chagaga, his brother's killer and is arrested. The stage is set for more momentous events.

Scene 2 Summary analysis and Commentary.

The scene is set in a prison cell where we find one silent prisoner, Mosese- a political prisoner. An Askari comes and shoves in Jere who becomes the second prisoner in this cell. The conflicts between Mulili and Jere over the question of whether to allow or not to allow the shaving ceremony to go on has landed Jere in prison. As Jere is being pushed into the cell, there is a confrontation between him and the Askari .From the exchange, the Askari concludes that Jere must be a lunatic. It is learnt that every prisoner here undergoes some elaborate "rehabilitation" before they are allowed to mix with the others. Rehabilitation in this case meaning some bating or oppression. Jere

compares the inner workings of the prison to a meteorological department as no one is supposed to ask questions.

It is also learn that Jusper is still in custody and is set to be released the following day as he has shown some cooperation with prison authorities (pg 20). We get to know the bitter news that Doga and Nina- Jusper's parents, have been murdered in cold blood and that Jusper's impending release won't sooth him at all. (Pg20).

Mosese is prompted to speak by the Askari but he says he see it prudent to remain silent. We learn that in prison, one is not sure of what should be done. Despite Askari's high handedness, he nevertheless shows some grudging respect to Mosese. It leaves Mosese wondering how such an understanding Askari accepted such a job as a prison warder. According to the Askari, one ought not to have a hot mouth in order to survive in Kafira.

When the Askari leaves, Jere the new prisoner in the cell remains with Mosese, the other prisoner. They engage in a conversation. Through this conversation, we learn of a play Jere conducted with another prisoner. The play was a biblical story where Pilate whipped Jesus- a person of low status whipping a king (one with higher status.) This story highlights the disillusionment the people of Kafira are in. The fact that Jere wishes for a chance to whip the king shows how he is fed up with Boss's administration. The story is also possibly a flash-forward of what will possibly in this play (where it ends with ordinary people like Mosese, Jere gaining powers and dictating terms to the leaders of Kafira. Jusper actually kills Mulili and Boss is brought under command. Through this conversation, it is also learned that Jere is well versed with the Bible having been once a religious Knowledge teacher for three years before he joined the army. His moment of reality in the army however came when he was deployed to his own sub location to restore peace. That is when he changed his mind.

Through flashback, we learn how Mosese came to prison after making a speech unacceptable to the leadership during Adika's burial. The administration used Nicodemo to plant opium on his car leading to his arrest and imprisonment.(Pg 25).

Mosese has since changed his names from Nicodemo Mosese to Mosese Wa Tonga .He feels uncomfortable to share a name with his betrayer. It also learnt that Jere was initially a soldier but because he is principled, he often clashed with authorities.

Mosese tells Jere that Regina , his sister often visits him but in her most recent visit , he learnt that she was intending to betray him by pleading to the administration for his release (pg25-26).This is if he accepts to act in a play meant to entertain a visiting head of state .

Mosese is loath to do this job though the Askari tries to convince him to accept to act so that they get pardoned. Successful acting will also allow the release of 600 prisoners. At last Mosese falls in to a reverie in which he agonizes over the present depressed state of the nation. Oppression of the common man continues unabated.

This scene reveals how corruption is rampant everywhere in Kafira-even in prison. The common form of corruption seems to be nepotism and tribalism .This is seen when the Askari brings tea with Milk in a mug to Mosese and laments, " here tea with milk in a mug, yet you don't even belong to my tribe. You need a tall relative to get anything these days." (Pg 27).

Mosese's disillusionment is seen when he says that for years, they waited for the Kingdom.. ' ...then they said it had come at last , but no...it was all an illusion' (pg 27-28). This shows that the political leadership under Boss in his country has not only failed to ' bring the Kingdom' but also is busy destroying the present and the future of Kafira. Mosese feels that the past (perhaps colonialism) would be preferable to the current order which offers little hope for change hence... " it was better while we waited . Now we have nothing to look forward to" (pg 28).

Scene 3. Summary analysis and Commentary.

This scene takes place in Regina's house. Regina is Mosese's sister. She is Jusper's and Tumbo's lover. She stays in a rented house belonging to Mr Tumbo. Jusper noisily strides in startling Regina. She tries to warn him to be careful with powerful people. She is aware that her brother, Mosese is in custody and she wishes to help him gain freedom. Jusper stresses that he is now alone in the world after the death of his parents, Doga and Nina, and his brother Adika. He therefore states that he has only remained with two friends; Regina and her imprisoned brother Mosese. In this case, Jusper reassures Regina that he is not mad like the others have said. He vows he can never rest with the death of his entire family.

In their conversation with Regina, one cannot fail to notice that student's idealism is in Jusper. While Jusper feels that those who speak out are heroes, Regina feels that heroism is everywhere and one does not necessarily have to shout the loudest to become a hero. Regina emerges as a person who is more concerned with survival like everyone else. Thus she does not see the need for one to be vocal as it all brings trouble as it did to Adika. To her, the beggars who insulted the rioting university students were right. " They know better than to fight stones" pg 34. Fighting stones here is symbolically used to mean fighting someone who is impervious to voice, reason or dialogue.

In this scene, we also learn that Regina is using Tumbo, a senior functionary in the government to help release Mosese. However, this is conditional upon the prisoners successfully performing a play to entertain a visiting dignitary. Jusper may be out of prison for this same reason though we are told that that the murder of both his parents is the main reason for his release after murdering Chagaga. Regina had earlier approached Tumbo seeking his help to have her brother released. He is thus supposed to speak with Boss on Regina's behalf. Jusper reads mischief in Tumbo's magnanimity. He thinks that " there must be something they want to know" (pg37) and he thus swears to beat them at their own game.

Initially, Juser like Mosese is apprehensive about acting in the play before the foreign dignitary. He thinks they will be stooping too low.

Mr Tumbo whom Regina has been expecting shows up (pg37.) Initially Regina is afraid not knowing how to behave in the presence of her two lovers , Tumbo and Juser, who have met in her room. However, she and Juser successively feign blood acquaintance as cousins and everything then runs smoothly. We also learn here that Juser is the organizing secretary of the national students' body.

The talk Tumbo and Juser engage in about education and success embarrasses Tumbo so much. This is because he didn't go to university as he purports - may be the reason why he has low opinion for university students. His dim view about education is further revealed when he says ` I had to work, but I don't regret it. Education no longer matters these days.(Pg 41). Regina occasionally interrupts this conversation to apologize for Juser's ill-formed motifs. The extent of mediocrity in national affairs is seen when Juser reveals that changing of names is item number three in the new development plan of Kafira. Tumbo cuts the conversation short by sending Juser for drinks and remains with Regina (pg41-42).

Regina tells Tumbo that Juser writes plays and this makes Tumbo say that he has then got the right person to write a play to be performed for the expected head of state. He is so excited to have Juser. His happiness is money motivated as he knows he is going to benefit as he wants to take advantage of Juser's student status. "... you don't come by that kind of money easily.(pg 44). Mr Tumbo is in charge of the committee for entertainment being its chairman.

Here we also learn that Mulili who is Boss's cousin is his advisor and has received huge farm for his service to the nation (pg44). We also learn that Mosese has been persuaded to act in the play.

When Juser returns with the drinks, they start drinking. Tumbo asks Juser about his play writing experience and when Juser admits that he writes plays during his free

time, Tumbo gives him the chance of writing the winning play and he goes ahead to declare him the winner of the competition. He then shares out the money proposed for the competition.(pg 48-49). This is an indication of the mediocrity with which things are done in Kafira.

In this scene, it is revealed that Kafira is clearly a typical society where the leaders are out to accumulate as much individual wealth as possible in a typical man-eat-man society. This philosophy is best captured by Tumbo who says "You were born alone. Why then do you want to ruin your chances by pretending to talk for the others?" (pg 42).

That Tumbo and his ill government swim in money is seen when he sends Juser beer instead of coffee that Regina offers them. " Don't let her limit us ...money is not a problem; the problem is how to spend it."(pg43). The disorganized nature in which things are done in Kafira state is clearly demonstrated. Three men, Boss, his cousin Mulili and Tumbo do things without consultation to satisfy their puffed up egos without any fear of punishment. It is further a satire that a play writing competition is won and the winner gotten without the competition itself. Further, an instance of misuse of power and corruption comes in as Tumbo uses his post to declare Juser a winner without a competition and also sharing out the money meant for the competition.

In this scene, it is seen how wasteful the government is in spending. " the whole entertainment programme is to cost the government a quarter of a million shillings."(pp44). Greediness of government official like Tumbo is highly demonstrated. In the money proposed for play writing competition, Tumbo retains two thirds of the six hundred pounds that were set aside and Juser and Regina share only two thirds. It is further learnt in this scene that Boss is not bad after all but his main weakness is that he gets scared too easily. This explains why his poor advisors are the ones ruling.

Incompetency of leaders in Kafira is also brought out through Tumbo –the chairman of the entertainment committee. He doesn't seem to be learned. This is gotten from the way he is embarrassed by the discussion concerning education in Kafira. It is ironical

that he is chosen the chairman of the entertainment committee and also to organize a playwriting competition yet he doesn't seem to know who Wole Soyinka is. He thinks he is a politician. Democracy is also satirized from the way Tumbo declared Jusper the winner of the play writing competition. The unilateral way in which he does it smirks corruption and a mockery of principles of democracy where ideally every competitor could have been given a chance to participate.

ACT 2

SCENE 1. Summary analysis and Commentary.

This scene takes place in an office. It is the office of the entertainment committee with which Tumbo chairs. Kabito, a member of the committee is already here. He is joined by Nicodemo (Mosese's betrayer).From the beginning, one gets the impression that these people are not that serious but are most probably here as a formality. The two discuss about Kabito's frustrations. He had secured a tender to supply milk to the university. However, Mulili-Boss's cousin has gone to Boss and convinced him to snatch the tender from him and instead he secures it. This is despite Kabito's efforts to bribe the university officials so that the tender goes his way. He says, 'I spent the whole of last night being nice to people, only to lose the tender this morning.' (Pg 51).This further reveals the extent of corruption and nepotism. While someone might first

sympathize with Kabito over his predicament, we soon realize that it is a case of a thief crying foul only after another thief has stolen from him.

Nicodemo is apprehensive about the prospects of the release of the prisoners as he doesn't want Mosese to be freed. However, the decision has already been made by higher authorities.

Tumbo, the chairman of the committee arrives then and says Mulili is yet to come. This irks Kabito who inquires why Mulili is in the committee and is informed that higher authorities wish it to be so. The influential role Mulili plays in Boss's government is seen here when Mulili is put in the entertainment committee, despite him lacking any competency. He has been put here strategically for security reasons. When Tumbo begins the meeting, Kabito insists that they be told their terms of service. This brings out the greedy nature of the government officials in Kafira . Their foremost concern is the money they can get and not the service they will offer to the public. Their aim to milk more money out of their present engagement is seen where Nicodemo and Kabito suggests that it is necessary that 'they meet every day until the visitor arrives'.(pg 53) Kabito even suggests that they meet after the visit to review the success of the entertainment.

After a while, Mulili arrives and confirms that he has actually secured the university Milk supply tender after wrestling it from 'unkown small man' (Kabito) using his closeness to the Boss as a ram rod. The committee deliberates on various issues. These are as follows;

- ✓ Children to line the streets from airport to the government house to welcome the visitor.
- ✓ The committee cannot discuss the possible upcountry trip of the visitor as this is outside their mandate.
- ✓ Prisoners to act out a performance for the visitor, not university students as they look opposed to the visit.

It is also said that the university students have sacked Juser , their organizing secretary for accepting to act in the play.

During the discussion, a row erupts between Kabito and Mulili (pg 56-57). This is after Kabito openly accuses Mulili of trying to force grown-ups to do things they don't believe in. He further accuses Mulili of commanding people to say 'yes' like primary school kids. Mulili misconstrues Kabito's utterance and he becomes very infuriated. Kabito refuses to apologize to Mulili and the quarreling continues. The tension is broken when Nicodemo suggests they go for a break. The chairman calls for a one hour break to allow members to cool their tempers. This is not before Mulili yells at Kabito that he is playing with fire. "You play with fire you goat!" It can only be guessed what will happen to Kabito given that Mulili is not only Boss's cousin , but also the most trusted man. From this quarrel, it is learnt that Mulili is functionally illiterate.

In this scene, other effects of a poorly governed government are seen for instance cases of nepotism whereby Mulili wins the milk supply tender to the university because of his closeness to the Boss. Also corruption comes in from what Kabito refers to as spending the whole night to make people happy. This is in reference to the money he spent the whole night. This scene also shows the domineering nature of Mulili as he feels he is very close to the seat of power. He wants everything to go his way. His narrow outlook on issues and the shortness of his temper help push events to a climax.

Scene 2 Summary analysis and Commentary.

Here, we meet Mulili at Boss's palace. He has just come from the entertainment committee meeting and is set to go back after the one hour break. He has come to report the events of the committee to Boss exaggerating and distorting information. At first, Boss dismisses Mulili saying Kabito is one of his loyal subjects but Mulili manages to convince him that Kabito is indeed a bad man. This is after he reports that;

- ✓ Kabito has told the committee that Boss robbed him the Milk tender supply to the university.
- ✓ Kabito says that Boss has ruined the economy of Kafira by stashing away Millions of Money –This charge disturbs Boss so much that he wishes to know how Kabito knew this fact.- a clear indication that there is truth in it.
- ✓ Kabito says Boss is trying to get Regina by force.

These charges force the hasty and imprudent leader to order the elimination of the otherwise straight faced officer –Kabito. Mulili organizes for a stage managed road accident and Kabito is Killed.

This scene exposes the evil machinations of the people in authority in Kafira. Another effect of poor governance-political deaths or assassination is seen here whereby Kabito is killed in cold blood after Mulili lies to the boss that he (Kabito) spoke bad of him .Misuse of power is also realized from the way the boss uses his power to steal the government money-which is gotten from one of Mulili's lies which seriously disturbs the boss that he wishes to know how Kabito knew this fact. In such a government, at a slight provocation, or no provocation at all, stage apparatus are mobilized to eliminate perceived threats .Real and imagined enemies are eliminated this way and safety in such a nation is a mirage.

What emerges in this scene is that Kafira's regime under Boss is evil and tainted with blood. Boss himself is an evil man who likes to dispense favour to his favourites . That he is easily scared, thus allowing his advisors to mislead him comes out clearly in this scene. Mulili emerges as one of his worst advisors

Scene 3. Summary analysis and Commentary.

This scene takes place in the entertainment committee office. The meeting that was briefly suspended to cool off tempers resumes after an hour's break.

Jusper is in attendance and suggests to Tumbo that he may not participate in the acting. This is because (Regina his and Tumbo's girlfriend) and Mosese's sister is reported to have escaped Boss's lecherous pursuits by jumping out of a ten feet window at Boss's palace. Boss had intended to rape her. His wife then raised a stink about it and Boss then locked her up in a cell (pg61). Tumbo is apologetic about the whole incident but warns Jusper against pulling out of the play at that crucial stage as this will be perceived as sabotage. Jusper then leaves to collect the rehearsal schedule. Nicodemo enters and asks Tumbo if he has heard the news about Kabito's death. Both are secretly aware that Mulili is behind it.

Mulili enters and reports about Kabito's death feigning sympathy. He also says that Boss is shedding tears due to Kabito's death. That he has even declared one of the roads be named after Kabito. This is hypocrisy of the highest order coming from leaders who know very well they are behind the killing. As a result of Kabito's sudden death, the scheduled committee meeting is suspended indefinitely.

Greed among the government officials again is shown here in that despite Kabito's death, Nicodemo has still the guts to ask whether this day will be counted.

In this scene, also the callousness and shamelessness of Kafira's administration is seen from the manner in which they effect the elimination of their real and imagined foes. Death seems so near in Kafira society and particularly for those who display any inclination towards rebelliousness. Intolerance is the hallmark of the Kafira's leadership.

Scene 4 Summary analysis and Commentary.

This is the final and the climax scene of the play. The scene is at the play rehearsals stage. Jusper is present with Tumbo who is finding out the level of preparedness of the

actors as the D day is close and also the future of six hundred prisoners depends on the success of the play. It is also learned that Mosese who had previously vowed never to act has shown some cooperation due to his participation in the previous night's rehearsals. The actors are to make final rehearsals of the play.

It is evident that Juser sees the release of six hundred prisoners as futile to change Kafira's image. For Tumbo, this will create a positive image of Kafira in the eyes of the world.

Boss enters. His mission is to know the level of preparedness towards the performance of the play. It is learnt that he was once a good actor and is eager to participate in the rehearsals (pg 66). He asks Tumbo to summon the palace staff to witness the rehearsals. It so happens that one of the actors, the chief of staff, in the play is sick. There is therefore need for replacement. Mulili is part of the government staff who have come to witness the rehearsals.

Boss engages Juser in some conversation as he wants to know what the play is about. Unlike his earlier conversation with Tumbo, Juser is this time a bit calculating in the way he answers Boss. Boss pour scorn on Juser and the students in general about their demonstration. He tells Juser that when he goes back, he should tell the students that it is the duty of the Boss to decide on the magnitude of the Africanization programme. From the way he speaks, it is learnt that Boss indeed is a typical big man in Kafira.. '...My arms are long. My eyes see far and my ears are the sharpest in the continent' (pg 68). To him, students lack understanding and do not reason like leaders of tomorrow.

Mosese and Jere are brought in in handcuffs and as they are actors, it is decided that they should be untied. Due to the fact that one of the actors is sick, Boss agrees to assume the role. It is immediately realized that some of the props (wooden guns) are not yet ready from the carpenter and so the guards are asked to hand in their live weapons - for the rehearsals.

One of the key points in the play is an argument between Jere (the captain) and Mosese the (lieutenant). They argue that one of the guns a.32 automatic is shorter than the other a.28. Because the captain and the lieutenant can't agree over the point, they seek guidance from the chief of the staff (Boss). The chief of staff requires that before he resolves the argument, the two guns be brought before him. Jere, the captain and Mosese, the lieutenant go to fetch the guns.

Once the guns are on their hands, Juser is so excited. They have all the powers to do what they want to anybody around.

Boss realizes the mistake too late when his enemies already have the weapons. Mulili who has also realized the mistake wants to take off in pretext of a short call but Juser orders him to sit down (pg72). He then orders an imaginary squad to shoot at Boss. Mulili appears so sad as things now become so tough for both of them. When Mulili is asked whether Boss is his cousin, he denounces saying that he is only a distant cousin and that he can be killed for the ills he has done. The ills according to Mulili are:

- a) He monopolized everything in Kafira.
- b) He has ruined Kafira's economy.
- c) He has overstayed in leadership.
- d) He has killed Kabito.

When Boss hears this betrayal, he is taken aback, he feels he should better die than be allowed to remain to witness this betrayal. Juser says he will put Boss in a government coffin which he will design himself. As he goes away in a trembling voice to design the coffin, Mosese tells boss to look at what he has done to Juser-turning him mad or a psychological wreck through torture in prison by Boss's agents. This part is somehow meant to make Boss come in to terms with reality about what he has done to others. This is a moment of reckoning to him.

Jere and Mosese look sympathetic as they feel they don't need to sacrifice more lives for Kafira but feel to chart new and fair course in the life of Kafira. 'Kafira needs each one of us, you included' (pg 73). Boss is told that the whole exercise was meant to

'provide a mirror to Kafira that will reflect the real face of Kafira's front men.' (Pg 73). Jere offers himself to be shot by Boss as a sacrifice but Boss refuses. However, Juser who is more aggrieved has no compunctions; he receives the gun from Boss and executes Mulili -who is still exonerating himself by pointing an accusing finger to Boss- hence effecting his revenge.

Finally, kafira has been ridden off the evil that destroyed the past and Killed the future. With Mulili's death, the stage becomes reminiscent of the very first scene of the play as Mulili's body takes the place of Adika's grave. Revenge for the ills done has been accomplished. The dictator Boss finally ends up overthrown in a dramatic rehearsal of the play meant for the state visit.

In this final climax scene of the play, the folly and unwariness of the kafira rulers which blinded them to any logic and common sense has been clearly demonstrated by the brilliance, determination and unwavering resolve of the unwavering majority.

With Mulili's killing, it becomes not only a revenge to Juser but also a sigh of relieve for the entire Kafira. In a way, the fact that the plot ends with where it started could imply that life has gone full circle and a new life has to start again hence a new Kafira.

CHARACTERS

Mulili

Mulili is the most important character in the play. He is almost everywhere from the start to the end. From the start of the play, he is presented as Boss's cousin until the end of the play where he denounces him. His character traits are as follows.

He is an **influential** person. His being influential is felt far and wide. This is because he is a cousin of Boss and holds a lot of power. For example, when Kabito secures the university milk supply tender, Mulili quickly calls Boss who in turn calls the university staff thereby effecting its cancellation in Mulili's favour. (pg51). It all goes without say that the entertainment committee headed by Tumbo may not sit and deliberate on

anything serious without Mulili's presence. When Tumbo enters carrying a big file in his hand ready to chair the meeting, he retorts (pg 52). "Just as expected, Mulili is yet to come." When Kabito inquires what Mulili is doing on the committee, Tumbo, the chairman replies, *You know better than that Kabit ...*

This means that Mulili's role on the committee is crucial. Indeed, when the meetings are in progress; he seems to dominate the proceedings.

In the argument with Jere whether Doga and Nina should be allowed to conduct the ceremony for Adika, Mulili has the last laugh as later, we find Jere in prison and the two Doga and Nina dead. Indeed, Mulili has a lot of influence in Kafira but the influence is mainly for ill and not for better.

Mulili is **greedy**. When he comes to Adika's grave, he is busy drinking beer yet the situation is hardly suitable for drinking (pg 8). His greed drives him to the tender award already secured by his colleague Kabito. This intensifies the conflict between them leading to Kabito's murder.

Mulili's apparent loyalty to Boss is purely informed by greed and not by any magnanimous posturing. When Jere tries to convince him that they allow the harmless shaving ceremony to proceed, he fears that by doing so, he is certain to lose a farm promised by Boss. He says (pg 13).

Me count out, I doesn't want to lose that farm. Boss promise my acre of farm and grade cattle.....

Mulili is a **mediocre** person. All he says and does appears to be below our expectations particularly for such a highly placed personality. The utterance he makes are humorous and irritating due to his poor linguistic ability. For instance, when Jere blasts him for behaving unacceptably before Adika's grave, he says: *Alright, am sorrowful. I honest doesn't know it will affect you (pg 15)*

Mulili is directly or indirectly the mastermind of the death of Adika and his parents hence he is a murderer. He actually admits affecting the murder of Doga and Nina (pg

60). He also plans and executes Kabito's death. A leader worth his salt is expected to find better ways of coming to terms with his detractors short of murdering them.

Mulili as a character is also a very **hot tempered** man. This can be learnt from his action; the assassination and incarceration cases e.g. Jere's imprisonment and also from his quarrel with Kabito.

He is corrupt. He uses his influence and closeness to the Boss to influence the university Milk tender which had been given to Kabito. He uses favoritism to let Mustafa escape across the border yet he cannot poor peasants to hold a shaving ceremony. In addition, we are told he is to be rewarded with a big farm and exotic cattle by Boss for his service. It is difficult to exhaust Mulili's character traits. However, one thing is clear about him. Almost everything about him is negative.

Mulili's significance in the play

- He is both a comic and tragic figure. His behavior and broken English brings humour in the play hence comic relief despite the critical issues in the play. His life ends tragically but there is little sympathy for him as he has killed many people.
- His role in the start of the play serves to show the conflict between the African culture and the inherited systems of government in African states.
- Being so selfish and greedy himself, he exemplifies the theme of selfishness and greed and other social vices.
- Through the take that overtakes him finally, the reader/ audience appreciates the rewards of bad leadership. Society feels appeased for the wrong done.
- He arouses in the reader/ audience the urge to effect revolutionary change in a misgoverned society.
- He is a symbol of oppression in Kafira and his eventual death signifies the end of this regime and perhaps the emergent of a new one. He plays a big role in bringing up most themes in the play.

- He exemplifies personalities that give wrong advice to leaders who then misrule and corrupt nations. Thus he has also been used to satirize leaders and their advisors. This is best exemplified through plays in this government. He is the villain in the play.

Jusper

Jusper is another important character in the play. He is Nina and Doga's only left son. He is **vengeful** as he is eager to take revenge when offended. He searches high and low for Chagaga, the killer and eventually gets even with him. He knows that it is Kafira administration led by people like Mulili who have killed both his parents. He continuously vows for revenge. When he gets a chance during the play rehearsals (in the final scene of the play) he doesn't hesitate. He kills Mulili right away becoming even with the killers of his parents. Jusper's passion for revenge for the ills done on the society forms part of the action in the play from start to end.

Jusper is **imaginative**. He is the one who carefully weaves out a play to be performed by the prisoners to entertain the foreign visiting dignitary. We discover that the play is so deftly and skillfully planned and executed that it finally effortlessly emasculates the Kafira leadership bringing about the conclusion of the near bloodless revolution. Mulili is killed and Boss disrobed of power in a trice. It is Jusper's rich imagination that achieves this. He also imagines, plans and executes the mission that brings about Chagaga's death.

Jusper is also **uncompromising**. He is firmly opposed to Kafira's administrations and its policies. He is completely unwilling to compromise with them on any issue except the one he feels will save his purpose. The Kafiran authorities know this and that is why he is put in prison during Adika's burial. At the end of the play, no form of compromise on the part of kafiran leadership can assuage his indignation and when he gets hold of a gun, he kills Mulili with no compunction.

Jusper is sarcastic. He a lot of times uses sarcasm to ridicule the government. He is so sarcastic when he tells Regina in the presence of Boss that the students prayer was to ask God help them drop their Christian names. (Pg39).When they are discussing the play for the entertainment committee, he is sarcastic. He replies to Tumbo about the kind of development he has highlighted in the play. He says, "The number of external expatriates professionals has greatly increased over the years, signifying the full extent of our potential progress.(pg 48).

The significance of Jusper

- He exemplifies the theme of revenge and resistance to oppression.
- Through him we learn that even in the darkest and the most desperate periods of life, we should never despair but be hopeful as victory awaits.
- Through him we learn that the youths of a nation have a singular role of correcting the ills done.
- Courage as a theme is conveyed through Jusper.

Mosese

He is an **intellectual** - a university don and so he has a high level of education. The level of education of his brain is therefore higher than many of other characters. Being a university don, we expect that his outlook of life is expansive.This is the reason he is able to identify so many weaknesses in Kafiran leadership and when he articulates his opinion (e.g at Adikas funeral) , it disgusts the authorities and hence his present status as a prisoner.

He is **principled**. During Adika's funeral, he makes a fiery speech condemning the administration's ways , not afraid of any consequences. (Pg25).This results in his imprisonment though the administration cannot get a plausible excuse for its action.

When the regime suggests to Mosese that he needed to relent so that he is pardoned, (pg 25-26), he flatly refused believing that by so doing, he would be kowtowing so low.

When it is suggested that prisoners act before a visiting head of state, in order to be pardoned, Mosese is Loath to do so. He says,

I will not bend so low.

He remains **adamant** on this. He actually doesn't accept to perform in the play to gain his release. What happens is this, at the end, he sees a golden opportunity in the Juser scripted play for prisoners to seize control of the situation. It eventually turns out so during the rehearsals. The truth is that he eventually doesn't perform in the play before the foreign head of state. He is true to his principles.

Mosese is **patriotic**. He is very much angered by what is happening in Kafira. He speaks out against it. Disgusted at the way the leaders are ruining Kafira, he tells Jere (pg 28).

It was better while we waited. Now we have nothing to look forward to. We have killed our past and are busy killing our future... our children will never have such memories.

This is the speech of a person that is bitter about what he sees around him. He agitates for change and that is why he is currently in prison.

Mosese is **courageous**. He is not afraid to answer the prison Askari face to face. The askari asks him why he is sitting with his back towards them and Mosese gives an epigrammatic response.

I have no front (pg 18)

By this reply, he is suggesting he has no freedom and no future and so he seems to be a nobody. He means he is inscrutable and so unworthy of so much worry by a government officer. In the tense atmosphere at Adika's funeral, he gathers **courage** and condemns the leadership for its dictatorial, careless and freedom-limiting policies (pg 25).

Mosese's significance

- He is symbol of intellectuals and scholars who pursue for change in a rotten society .
- He represents the strong desire for change in Kafira.
- Through him, we understand that to get any substantial change, sacrifice is necessary.
- Through his travails and suffering, we get to understand the operations of brutal and unfocussed administration.

Boss

Boss is the supreme leader of Kafira. From the plenary authority he possesses, he embodies power over life and death in Kafira. In exercising these powers, he has made Kafira a very unattractive and a dictatorial state.

He is a **nepotistic**. He uses his powers to favour his relatives (and people close to him). We are told that he has appointed Mulili, his cousin, to hold a key state position in his government. He uses him to supervise and oversee all other areas. Because Mulili is basically **inefficient and narrow- minded**, the whole Kafira administration is a by-word of inefficiency.

He is **authoritarian**. He leads with an iron fist and is not ready to seek other people's opinion. He unilaterally issues orders for the imprisonment and assassination of others and his orders are carried out expeditiously. A case in point is the death of Kabito falling to Mulili's false accusations. He simply tells Mulili, (pg 60).

Come, report to me he is silent.

Kabito is then eliminated with no scruple.

He is **hasty and imprudent**. He does not stop to think before making any important decision. Kabito's death is clearly a case in point. He doesn't investigate Mulili's utterances. He also rushes into joining the play to be performed by prisoners without understanding the basic points and essence. This results into the emasculation of his leadership.

He is also **unpatriotic**. We learn that he keeps large sums of his country's money in foreign banks (pg59). When Mulili lies to him that this is part of Kabito's accusations, he becomes so affected and so irate that he orders for immediate elimination of Kabito. He swamps his country with foreign workers at the expense of his people who may be unemployed. In reacting to students grumbings, he says this, "Because they shouted against the appointments, five of which were my own personal appointments, I deliberately sent in an order for three hundred more expatriates, just to put them in their place" (pg68).

Boss is so **irascible**. He very easily gets angry. We are told he was so upset when his wife complained of his lecherous behavior that he locked her in a palace cell, and almost slapped Tumbo (pg64) when he said the props of the play were not ready.

In warning Juser about Boss's irascibility Tumbo says (pg65),

Boy, you still don't understand the principles of survival. When he loses his temper, he can hardly tell a human being from a rat. The man is an animal ; I tell you and this one of his bad months if you read astrology.

Boss's significance

- He represents poor leadership (in Africa).
- It is through him that we witness why leadership in Africa creates so much resistance and rebellion.
- He typifies the theme of men's cruelty to women.

- It is through his fall from power that we appreciate the struggle against defeat of despotism.
- He exemplifies lack of respect for human life and un-patriotism.

Adika

We meet this character posthumously. He is dead before the play starts and we only witness his grave. He was a university student before he died. He comes out as a **revolutionary** person. He wants change from the static and unprogressive administration. Being a student leader in the university, he leads other students to agitate for change. As they actively demonstrate, he loses his life in a confrontation with state security apparatus. Despite his death, the spirit of revolution is kept alive till the end.

He is ill-starred. He is unfortunate. Among a large crowd of demonstrators, he is the only one who is picked by the four bullets and drops dead.(pg4). Adika is also **popular**. This is why students elected him and why they heeded to his demonstration call. Also during his burial, attendants in the funeral included politicians, administration officials, the locals, lecturers, students, etc. He is also **intelligent**. Whatever enabled him to attain university status attests to his intellectual ability. To mobilize other university students to agitate for change calls for intellectual brains. A common stripling will simply be brushed off.

The significance of Adika.

- ✓ He represents the idea that resistance to oppression has a high cost.
- ✓ He represents the voice of the youth in trying to assert themselves.
- ✓ His grave is the symbol of Kafira at cross roads.
- ✓ Through his death and his parents resultant bitterness, we get to understand the depth of sorrow and suffering in Kafira.

Nicodemo

Nicodemo is **traitorous**. He plants drugs on the innocent Mosese who is then arrested and imprisoned unfairly. He is a tool the administration of Kafira is using in its oppressive fight against its own people.

He is **unprincipled**. He doesn't try to understand the consequences of his actions. He is told to carry out a destructive action and does so thoughtlessly.

Nicodemo is a **greedy man**. His decision to betray Mosese is informed by the profit he will gain by taking such action. His main interest is only to get the payment or gain associated with his action. He is on the entertainment committee and keeps thinking of what size of 'potato' he will get (pg53). He is therefore not interested in the efficiency but the profit he will get as a member. After Kabito's demise, and the meeting planned is postponed, he asks if the day will be counted or not (pg63). His profit motives outweighs the efficiency element.

He is also **selfish**. His desire to get money from whatever assignment he is given is an indication of his selfish conduct. He wants money to satisfy his personal needs and doesn't mind about the public and others. His decision to betray the innocent Mosese is informed by selfishness. He wanted to earn a profit at the expense of somebody. He is apprehensive about Mosese's release from prison. He wishes that Mosese stayed in prison forever so that he himself lives comfortably. Mosese's release badly menaces him. He is therefore not interested in other peoples welfare.

Nicodemo's significance

- He represents the base tools the administration uses in its oppressive machines.
- He reminds us that in any struggle there always are traitors who undermine the noble cause.
- He exemplifies themes of greed and selfishness.
- He typifies inefficiency in government (he appears on important boards but makes little sensible contributions).

Jere

Jere is initially a soldier but later becomes a prisoner. When we first encounter him, he has been sent together with Mulili to forestall Adika's shaving ceremony, from taking place. They come with the orders which somehow, Jere is uncomfortable with.

He emerges as a **sympathetic** person. Although he is a government functionary and has accompanied Mulili to forestall Adika's shaving ceremony, he has other ideas in mind. He wishes that they sympathize with Adika's poor parents and let the harmless ceremony go on. However, Mulili, partly for personal reasons, isn't ready to hear of that. Jere's sympathy makes him an appealing character; at the same time, it sets him at odds with his superiors. He lands into trouble. His sympathy is also graphically revealed when during the rehearsals; he gets the gun and doesn't use it against his enemies but pleads for magnanimity and brotherhood (pg73).

He is **magnanimous**. unlike Jusper, he is not vindictive. When he handles the gun during the rehearsals, he does not take revenge. He requires Kafirans to reconcile, avoid shedding of blood and encourages mutual understanding (pg73). To demonstrate the magnanimity further, he hands over the gun to Boss wisely but shamefully declines (pg74). This is an indication that he is fully committed to total reconciliation.

Jere is **rebellious**. He refuses to effect the orders he is sent to carry out at Adika's graveyard. Instead, he encourages his colleague to renege on those orders, a proposition Mulili scoffs at. He shoots at the rapidly escaping Mulili; this eventually lands him in prison. While talking to the Askari in the prison cell, he makes utterances that can easily land him in jeopardy and when the Askari warns him, he takes no heed (pg16-17). His rebelliousness reaches its epitome when the prisoners including him rebel and put Kafiran authority under their thumb (pg74).

Jere, just like Jusper and Mosese, is **courageous**. First, to disobey constituted authority like the Kafiran administration requires guts. Jere has the guts since he rebels. When he is with Mulili, he feared Boss's blue-eyed boy, he talks to him roughly without

any fear (pg14-15). Similarly when talking to the Askari in the prison cell, he shows no fear and sometimes he embarrasses the Askari.

The significance of Jere

- He is one of the pillars of resistance in Kafira.
- He is the voice of magnanimity in an otherwise embittered environment.
- He enables us to see the strength of the oppressed side by defecting from the oppressive ruling group.
- His consistency from start to end enables others who partly depend on him solidify their action leading to eventual victory.

TUMBO.

He is the chairman of the committee charged with organizing the entertainment of the expected head of state. He looks **submissive**. He is afraid of both Boss and Mulili yet he is a man holding a high office. When a vote is to be taken whether children should line the streets to receive the visitor or not, and there is confusion, Tumbo quickly rushes to Mulili's side as chairman and unilaterally declares that Mulili's side has won.(pg55-56). He does this realizing that if Mulili's side loses, then he will be in trouble.

When Kaboto inquires what Milili is doing in their committee, Tumbo replies....

You know better than that Kabito.pg52

By this, he means that mulili's membership is obvious in view of his influence and notoriety in Kafira. In replying to Juspers inquiry as to why he looks nervous about the play, Tumbo replies painting Boss as a very cruel, animalistic creature capable of doing terrible harm.(pg 65).

Tumbo **is boastful and snobbish**. He has so much respect for people with wealth and high social positions and despises common people. In this play, he is the one with

money and he would like to show off before those without. For instance, while at Regina's house, he wishes to show off about his vehicle, a jaguar, by asking Jusper if he knows how to drive.(pg42). Elsewhere he boasts of being a top government official (pg 46).To impress his girlfriend Regina, he says,

...and who knows ..your cousin here (Jusper) may even sit on the dais with the rest of us... pg 50. When Jusper tries to hand over him the change, he retorts....

....Oh, that...Keep change...I know students have money in theory...bye.

Tumbo is a **mediocre** person. He does not measure to the expectations of an officer of his rank. When Jusper talks of Soyinka, the Nigerian maestro writer, Tumbo quips..(pg 47.)

...who is Soyinka? ...oh...I see...the prime minster of ...oh I forget the country.

He professes ignorance of common place issues. His mediocrity is also evident when he declares Jusper the winner of a competition before the competition takes place. He awards him and Regina his lover the prize for winning the competition before the competition takes place.

The significance of Tumbo.

- ✓ He represents corrupt and incompetent leadership.
- ✓ He represents the self-serving non patriotic personalities who mislead or fail to advice their superiors on corrupt, incompetent administrations.
- ✓ His allegorical name help promote certain themes in the play (greed, selfishness, monopoly).
- ✓ He enables us to understand how wealth blindfolds and misleads.
- ✓ His lack of intelligence and foresight enabled the rebels to subvert Kafiran leadership by using the carefully and skillfully woven plot of the play to carry through the required change.

KABITO.

Like Tumbo and Mulili, he is a government functionary. He has intense bitterness. He hates Mulili with passion. In the entertainment committee meeting, the issue of the milk tender becomes an immediate spark in their conflict. During the whole meeting, he is constantly at loggerheads with the domineering Mulili. (pg 54-57). However, his bitterness with a very influential person become his main undoing. He loses his life as a result.

He is **realistic**. He seems to wonder what an inexperienced person like Mulili is doing on their committee (pg51-52). When Mulili suggests that children should line streets to welcome the visitor, he says that they are in their exam season and therefore should be allowed to waste no time (pg55).

Kabito is also **sarcastic**. During his quarrel with Mulili, his remarks become laced with bitter sarcasm. When Mulili complains that he has called him a primary school kid, Kabito, unfazed counters (pg57).

Alright professor, tell us the day you stepped inside a secondary school classroom.

The significance of Kabito

- He reminds us the dangers strait-laced persons face in a misgoverned society.
- From him, we learn that conflict does not ease even among state functionaries.
- He makes us know that in an ill governed state, life is not worthy a penny and with real or imagined reasons, life can easily be cut short.
- Through him, we learn of the corrupt deals and set ups in a misgoverned society.

STYLE

Satire

The playwright has extensively employed satire to convey his intended message. He uses satire through the character Mulili to criticize leadership particularly in Africa.

Mulili is a character who invite laughter from us wherever and whenever we encounter him, both in the way he uses his language and the actions he engages in. From his poor language and narrowness of outlook, we are left wondering and questioning the quality of leadership in Africa . Are people like Mulili the type we do entertain as our leaders? It is all laughter. As we laugh at Mulili, we laugh at the whole administration he serves and by extension the whole African leadership experiment.

Tumbo is another character whose actions cause laughter and mockery. During his engagement with Jusper, he refers to Soyinka (a well-known Nigerian writer) as the prime minister of some country. This is a mistake that excites, disgusts and cause laughter. He also declares Jusper the winner of a playwright competition without following any procedures. (Pg48). Before the competition is done, he has already declared Jusper the winner and releases the prize money.

Elsewhere, Boss's conduct towards Regina and even with his own wife excites awe, laughter and scorn for a person with such status.

Nicodemo is also another character who is satirized. He keeps insisting about the size of the potato in the play showing how he is money motivated. He cannot even hide his greed for money when he asks openly whether the day when the meeting has been cancelled after Kabito's death is going to be counted.

The way the government conducts its business is ridiculed. The issues that are given more weight are less important as personal interests override everything. For instance it is satirical that the changing of names is item number three in Kafira's development agenda. No wonder Jusper takes advantage of this to ridicule the government now and again. Tumbo says that " A leader needs a mysterious name that common tongues will bleed pronouncing' (pg40). Jusper sarcastically confirms this when he says that even Boss exchanged his Christian name with something none of them could pronounce.(pg 41). When asked by Regina what he prayed for during Adika's funeral, he replies that he asked God to help them drop their Christian names.(pg 39)

Democracy is satirized from the way Tumbo declares Jusper the winner of the play writing competition. The unilateral way in which he does it smirks corruption and a mockery of principles of democracy where ideally, every competitor could have been given a chance to participate.

The way Tumbo describes to Jusper on how he wants the play to look like is satirical. He says that Boss prefers each and every page to be full of the words, 'progress and achievement'. This is to show the visitor that indeed Kafira has experienced major development. This coupled with the fact that the release of 600 prisoners will signify development is hypocrisy of the highest order.

Soliloquy.

This is another aspect of style the playwright uses. It is a case where a character talks alone. He addresses no visible object. A good example is a case where Doga has sent Nina to collect soil for sealing the crack in Adika's grave. He remains alone on stage and talks alone. (Pg 64.) Through this soliloquy, we learn about :

- ✓ Doga's intense bitterness which makes him urge Adika's ghost to pursue his killers unremittingly till condign revenge is attained.
- ✓ The actual cause of Adka's death during the demonstration in the city.
- ✓ Adika's actual killer.
- ✓ Jusper's conduct during the burial and his arrest.

Another case of soliloquy is Jusper's speech when he arrives after killing Chagaga. (Pg 5-6.) He indulges in a soliloquy where he reveals his knowledge of people's thinking about his sanity. This soliloquy helps to understand Jusper as a determined person to restore human dignity.

Flashback.

There are several instances of flashback. First, we have Doga's speech as he soliloquizes over Adika's death. (pg 4-5). Through this instance of flashback, we get to

know how Adika died , the fathers wish that Adika's ghost pursues his killers and events during and after Adika's burial.

As the story unfolds, we get to know about Adika's death through Jusper in a flashback. This is when he is chiding Regina over the loss of the fighting spirit.(pg 33.) This flashback helps to bring out the theme of disillusionment as implied by loss of fighting spirit.

Mosese recalling the events at Adika's funeral, how he was arrested and made a prisoner is brought about in a flashback.(pg 24-25). He says, 'I had never seen anything like it before. The atmosphere was tense at the funeral. I thought for once that things will never change in Kafira....i told them my mind. So the following day they came for me.

Another example is when Mosese –when in prison , has nostalgia about the good times they had in the past when there was hope unlike now when that hope has turned sour. He says, ' It was better we while we waited...sometimes, I sit here and look far into the past. There I see my mother slaughtering the biggest family cock.... our children will never have such memories. Now there is blood everywhere. Cocks are slaughtered any day, many times a week.' (Pg 28). From this flashback, the theme of disillusionment comes in. Also, it is fact that the slaughtering of cocks any day refers to assassinations. Flashback is also used when Jere who is also a prisoner like Mosese remembers the play he acted with another inmate to offset boredom.

Sarcasm.

This is use of bitter remarks that are meant to wound one's feelings. Whoever who is a target of sarcasm gets angered as a result. This urges the targeted person into some form of reactions.

For example when Mulili complains that Kabito has equated him to a primary school kid, Kabito sarcastically counters by saying ...(pg 57) "Alright professor, tell us the day you stepped inside a secondary school classroom." This remark becomes an insult to Mulili who immediately requires an apology from Kabito. When no apology is forthcoming, Mulili goes to see higher authorities and next we find Kabito dead.

In Jere's conversation with the prison Askari, the Askari says(..pg 16).

"My God, this is the wrong place to for you. The place for lunatic is three doors down the corridor." Jere then sarcastically says.. "You mean three doors up the corridor?" This deliberate distortion of speech ires the Askari since he knows that three doors up the corridor is the office of the head of the institution. This makes the Askari to warn Jere that he will educate him if he goes on that way.

Another instance of sarcasm is seen when Regina and Jusper are talking about Boss's visit. Jusper remarks " Can't you see he is on a do-it-yourself Kind of mission?" (Pg 36). This sarcastic remark is intended to criticize the idea of Boss's visit for he thinks in Kafira there is no man power apart from bringing expatriates from his country. It highlights the theme of bad governance where the consequences can be seen in terms of lack of development.

Jusper is also sarcastic when he tells Tumbo the kind of achievements he will highlight in the play. He says " The number of expatriates professional has steadily increased over the years, signifying the full extent of our potential progress. (Pg48). In real sense, Jusper knows that increased presence of expatriates in a country is not an achievement but a mark of underdevelopment.

While at the grave side after killing Chagaga, through in a cross purpose, Jusper tells Nina-his mother that " he will go and recommend a government coffin with many handles so that everyone can help lower him to the grave." (Pg 7.) His statement is sarcastic in the sense that it is attacking the way the government buries its 'important' people.

Jusper,s remark implies that the dead person (Chagaga) ranks as an important person at least in the eyes of the government.

After Tumbo declares Jusper the winner of the play writing competition, Regina seems not ok with it. When she wants to show her displeasure, Tumbo cuts her by telling Jusper to give her some lessons which Jusper does with sarcasm. (Pg 49).

Tumbo :Jusper, tell your cousin life is not a straight line.

Jusper :Regina, life is not a straight line....

Tumbo :Jusper, tell your cousin that we are here for only a season.

Jusper : Regina, we are here for only a season.....

From the conversation above, Jusper's remarks are meant to show Tumbo's mediocrity in making him a winner of a competition that never was which ironically Tumbo never realizes.

Puzzles.

This is a use of a language which makes the reader or audience to search their brain in order to understand what it means. Here are a few examples as used in the play.

Jere: Has it ever occurred to you that outside of this cell may also be the inside of another one ?pg16.

By this, he means that in a poorly governed society, being free out is just similar to serving prison sentences .Oppression pervades everywhere.

Jusper: If there is...we have no future until we see in the past. That is the only way we may know we once had a future. Mosese once had a future until he came to my brother's funeral. pg65.

He means that we can only have future if there is a basis for supporting it. You can't have hope that is built on nothing. Mosese was once hopeful. He was employed and was socially recognized before he fell foul for the authorities.

Jusper: *That means that the release of a few prisoners will not change Kafira. The sun will still rise in the east and set in the west.pg 66.* He means that things will remain unchanged –oppression will still continue.

Boss: But someone dies.

Jusper: *It is possible to have a death that is not tragic. Pg 69.*

Death of someone insignificant doesn't count much. Death of a stranger doesn't affect one.

Puzzles are used to infuse a sense of wisdom in the play.

Coincidence.

This is a situation where two events unexpectedly occur to influence the course of the story.

- ✓ During the rehearsals, it so happens that the two wooden guns are not yet ready from the carpenters and so the need to use real live guns arises.pg 70.These live guns are the ones the prisoners (Jere, Mosese and Jusper) need urgently to upstage the Kafiran authority.
- ✓ It also happens that the character to act the part of the chief of staff is sick. This part being vacant, then Boss assumes it. (pg 70). Boss then joins the rehearsals as an actor.
- ✓ It is also surprising that Boss who was supposed to watch the rehearsals claims that he was once a good actor and is actually the one who requests for the guns to be brought.(pg 71).
- ✓ Elsewhere, it is coincidental for Tumbo and Jusper (Two rivaling lovers) to meet at Reginas house and plan for the performance.
- ✓ It is also coincidental that a Kafiran government functionary, Jere meets in prison with a hardcore dissident, Mosese and then they become one.
- ✓ It is a coincident for Mulili, an avowed supporter of the Kafiran administration to be sent for the same duty with Jere, a man who develops a divergent opinion.

- ✓ Adika's death in the city is coincidental since out of the crowd of demonstrators, he is the only one picked by four bullets. His killer also happens to come from the same locality with him back at home.

Irony

These are a number of cases of irony in the play. Mostly, the various cases of irony help to highlight the government's inefficiency and poor governance.

It is ironical that in this government, most officials entrusted to run sensitive matters are incompetent. A perfect example is Mulili. From his use of language, it is clear that he is illiterate. His illiteracy can also be confirmed when Kabito sarcastically tells him to tell them when he stepped into a secondary school- which means he did not go to secondary school. Despite this, it is ironical to find that Mulili is the most trusted Boss's advisor, the eye and the ear of the Boss. Also another case is Tumbo. Despite the fact that he is not that learned, he is also one of Boss's close officials. Due to this, he is given a chance to chair the entertainment planning committee. It is through his incompetency that he fails to go through Juspers play which finally results to a coup during its rehearsals.

It is further ironical that Jusper is declared the winner of a playwriting competition that never was. For a visitor of such a magnitude, the play writing competition was supposed to be conducted and the best play gotten for his entertainment. Due to his being money motivated, he ends up using a short cut which paves way for a play that results to overthrow of the government.

Mulili's use of language is most of the time full of irony. For instance, the poorly stated reversed expressions, a green grass in the snake and also his constant misinterpretations. His ironic instances are symbolic as they symbolize at large how the government is ironic in its delivery of services to the public.

It is ironic that Tumbo instructs Jusper to write a play that has the words 'progress and achievement' all over in order to show the visitor that Kafira is indeed developing

whereby in real sense there is a lot of underdevelopment signified by a lot of external expatriates.

It is ironical that Tumbo says he could have written the play to entertain the visiting head of state himself were it not the fact that he is generous, yet the reason is that it is due to his intellectual handicap. He is not genuine about giving the opportunity to others.

It is ironical that Mulili says that Kabito was drunk when he met an accident yet it is barely an hour since they left the meeting for a break.(pg 63).

- Tumbo** : What could have happened?
Mulili : Driving under influential alcohol.
Nicodemo : Just how drunk can one get in a space of one hour?
Mulili : I also ask that. Then people say his breath smelled full of spirits. The hard stuff.

These are all lies already Tumbo and company know that it is Mulili who masterminded the killing.

Finally, it is ironical that Kabito says that he doesn't want to sit with thieves at the same table while he himself is not clean. This can be realized from the way he says how he spent a lot of money trying to bribe the university official to award him the milk tender. Also he is always in the first line always asking about the size of the potato.

THEMES

Betrayal

To betray is to be disloyal to someone, one's country, organization or ideology by acting in the interest of the enemy. As the title of the play suggests, the theme of betrayal is very evident in the play. The incidences of betrayal range from cultural, interpersonal to political betrayals

In act one, the first instance of betrayal witnessed is cultural betrayal whereby we find Jere and Mulili have been sent by the government to stop a shaving ceremony at Adika's grave. They have a signed document by the government stopping the ceremony. This is betrayal in that the people who are supposed to protect their culture are the ones who are destroying it. It is reported that the ceremony is "cancelled in the interest of peace." To make matters worse, the two soldiers declare that even the grave no longer belongs to the old couple.(pg9). According to Nina, this betrayal can only be met with a curse. "You took our all, but you will not take the grave from us.....I shall strip to show you the poor naked bones you have left in me."(pp9).

The government through Boss betrays its people who have given them powers to serve by not serving them well. They instead use power to make themselves rich. The public officials-the likes of Tumbo, Nicodemo, Mulili Askari and Kabito- are seen stealing governments money and misusing resources at the expense of the public.

Boss further betrays the public by using the state resources to reward his kitchen officials with tenders and other goodies for helping him stay in power. While at Adika's grave, Mulili tells Jere that Boss promised him a big farm if he maintains law and order. The law and order here can be equated to his being the boss's eye and ear. Those who help Boss stay in power do a lot of harm to the public. The murder of people like Doga and Nina, Kabito and Adika is attached to the government hence a betrayal of the public who expect to be protected by this government.

Another veritable case of betrayal is witnessed when Nicodemo secretly places opium in Mosese's car and policemen are sent to arrest Mosese as a drug peddler pg(25). This actually lands an innocent person in prison. All of us know what Nicodemo has done is wrong. He has betrayed an innocent citizen and created disaster for Mosese and his family and relatives. While in prison, Mosese shows the extent of the government's betrayal to its people when he says "For years, we waited for the kingdom of heaven, then they said it had come. Our Kingdom had come at last, but no . It was an

illusion.”(pg 27-28).This shows that the government the people longed for so long to bring a positive change has done nothing hence people’s suffering.

The act of Regina pleading with the authorities to release Mosese from jail is betrayal. This is because Mosese makes it clear as he says “ I saw betrayal in her eyes. Stood in front of me and said she wanted to go and plead for my release. I nearly slapped her.” (Pg 25-26).To him this is a sign of weakness equivalent to kneeling in front of Boss pleading for mercy.

Cultural betrayal is also seen where Chagaga kills Adika, his Kinsman, yet traditions condemn the shedding of a kinsman blood.(pp4).

Mulili betrays Kabito a fellow government official which eventually leads to his death. This happens after Mulili misconstrues Kabito’s utterances which are partly motivated by the milk tender that Mulili snatched from him. He thinks Kabito has called him a primary school kid. It is from here that Mulili rushes to the Boss and gives him false allegations against Kabito something that makes Boss to command Mulili to silence him.

Mulili further, despite being Boss’s trusted agent and cousin betrays him at the end when there is coup. It should be realize that Boss trusts him so much. Despite his lapses of character, Boss has bestowed on him great authority and confidence. He is almost the mouthpiece of Boss in the Kafira establishment. All sensitive issues in Kafira are directly under the control of and easily accessible to him. However, when things go awry during the play’s rehearsals (in the last scene of the play), Mulili does not hesitate to deny Boss, his superior and cousin. He denies being his cousin and says there is no reason why he (Boss) cannot be killed. He goes ahead to expose the ills he has done in Kafira. The conversation with Jere goes like this (pg73).

Jere: *I will show you why This man is your cousin*

Mulili: *He is only a distant cousin, that is all.*

Jere: *Give me one good reason why he should not be killed.*

Mulili: *No reason he can be killed.*

Jere: *Do you agree that he should be got rid of.*

Mulili: *Kabisa! One he has taken everything in his hand*

Mulili so badly betrays Boss, his benefactor that Boss requests to be shot rather than witness such betrayal.

Corruption

The theme of corruption manifests itself in a number of instances in the play. The first instance of corruption is seen in prison. When the Askari brings a mug of milk, his actions reveal that corruption is a common thing in prison. He says " You need a tall relative to get anything these days". (pg 27). A tall relative suggests someone big in the government or close to power. Even Tumbo himself says that what matters these days is for someone to have a tall relative or to get the right contact to get anything showing that even merit does not count in Kafira.

Boss is presented as a weak and corrupt ruler who uses his corrupt officials to rule. To effectively use them, he rewards them with bribes. A good example is his cousin Mulili who has been promised many acres of land and exotic cattle. Also from Mulili's false – true allegations against Kabito to Boss, it is evident that Boss is a master of corruption. Mulili says he has stashed a lot of Kafira money in foreign accounts.

Boss also practices open corruption when he favours Mulili his cousin. In the play, we are told that he is Boss's advisor and hence his eyes and ears. Mulili exploits his closeness to Boss to peddle influence so as to win tenders like the university milk tender -that Kabito had won.

The unilateral way in which Tumbo announces Jusper the winner of the play writing competition, smirks corruption and a mockery of principles of democracy where ideally, every competitor could have been given a chance to participate. To show that the whole deal is suspect, Tumbo intends to retain the two thirds of the six hundred pounds set aside for the competition to 'put the records straight'. (Pg 49). It can be inferred that this money is being set aside to anyone who may raise an eye brow over the matter hence okay the deal.

Corruption among the public officials is presented as the order of the day. In the entertainment committee, it is seen that everyone is concerned first and foremost about

the size of the 'potato' and not the services they will offer to the public. Mostly, the talk that dominates the meeting session is about money and tenders. Mr tumbo-who is the chairman confirms this to Jusper through his philosophy of eat-and-let eat. To show how they are money minded, these men in the entertainment committee even have plans to meet daily till the visitor arrives (Pg 53). This is after they are informed that they will be paid per day. Their greed for money is further seen when Nicodemo asks whether they will be paid-the day when kabito is Killed and the meetings suspended indefinitely.

Tumbo himself is a product of corruption in the government as evidenced from the large wealth he has amassed. His advice to Jusper ,” to learn to fight for yourself and then when your presence is felt , you can risk shouting for others’ (pg 42), shows how he is a master of the game –where one ought to make a lot of money through any means possible.

It is clear that corruption is everywhere in Kafira. Virtually, everyone is corrupt and the few who are clean like Mosese are not spared. Corrupt methods are used to make them look bad for instance in the case of Mosese where opium was planted in his car to nail him as a drug peddler.

Poor governance.

Poor governance is seen in the play in that Boss’s regime does not safeguard the interests of the people it is supposed to be serving. People’s rights are violated and even individual freedom curtailed. For instance, when Nina and doga protest the government’s directive to stop them from performing a shaving ceremony for their departed son-Adika, they are even told that even the grave does not belong to them. Other people are sent to jail without cause. For example, Jusper, Jere and Mosese. To show lack of freedom of expression, Mosese is sent to prison after drugs are planted in his car just because he has criticized Boss’s regime.

Boss is presented as someone who rules with power hence poor governance. According to Mulili, ' He take everything in his hand.' (Pg73). Further, he has ruined the economy of Kafira and hence many of his subjects are Jobless. Many parts of Kafira are also undeveloped. (pg36). As a result, there is genuine concern whether the country is headed to the right direction.

Poor governance makes Boss not to rule from the front but through his advisors. The fact that most of these advisors are inefficient like Mulili and Tumbo questions the Kind of leadership they offer and the Kind of advice they give him. Most of the time, these advisors take advantage of their excessive powers to loot from the government.

Another thing is that they mis-advice the Boss to execute several people thought to be threat to his regime. The execution does not even spare the youths who are leaders of tomorrow. The fact the boss has excess power over kafira is confirmed when he tells Jusper, " They should have Known my arms are long , My eyes see far and my ears are the sharpest in the continent." (Pg 68.).

Poor governance has rendered Kafiran citizens voiceless. Many things seem to go wrong but they cannot raise any voice. Those who dare are met with the full force of the law. For instance Adika is killed, Mosese jailed, Jusper jailed and Nina and Doga Killed. The fact the citizens are voiceless is confirmed by Jusper who says, "It doesn't matter what the masses think if they have no voice. That is why Adika had to go. That is why Mosese and Jere are in.: Because they tried to provide voice to the masses." (Pg 35.)

The way important things are handled in Kafira also suggests poor governance. Boss is clearly a maker of this with his making of unilateral decisions that affect the whole country. He tells Jusper to go and tell his student "...leaders that it his duty to decide on the magnitude of Kafira's Africanization programme." (Pg 67.) Poor government makes him and his regime to give priority to unimportant issues at the expense of the Major issues in Kafira. For instance it is funny that name changing has been given priority number three in the development agenda. Boss himself had to change his name to something no one could pronounce as put by Jusper. Even Tumbo rubber stamps the

name changing when he says that a leader should have a name a common man will bleed to pronounce. As evidenced, minor things are the ones that are given priority over the major things like employment of the jobless hence leaving citizens to suffer.

Inefficiency

Inefficiency in Kafira is highly prevalent among the officials .Whenever there is inefficiency, it translates to poor delivery of services hence underdevelopment.

A number of characters are inefficient in the play. Boss is the leading example. As a leader and the head of Kafira, it is expected of him to manifest a very a high degree of competency. This however is not the case as his administration is full of incompetent leaders. It is gotten from the play that he depends on his officials now and again for advice. It is even worse that most of these officials led by Mulilli and Tumbo are incompetent. Even more worse is that these officials have been put to lead Kafira's sensitive offices.

Although there are qualified people in Kafira to take up state jobs, the government is employing expatriates. When the university students protest against these expatriates, they are repulsed. All this translates to inefficiency in this government.

Further, the fact that the officials at the entertainment committee members are concerned of the size of the potato they will get out of the meetings and not the services they will offer all translates to inefficiency. It should be noted that most of the time spent in this meeting is used in discussion of the money they will get.

Inefficiency coupled with incompetency makes Tumbo fail to read Jusper's play about 'Betrayal in The City' which results to a coup. In (pg64), Tumbo tells Jusper that .. 'I have not had the chance to go through the script.' If he could have read the play, perhaps he could have known what its live performance required hence making sure that everything is ready. This could have lessened the chances of a coup happening.

Mediocrity.

Something is said to be mediocre if it lacks the quality of being good.-it is below the level generally accepted by people. Mediocrity is the quality present in the leadership of kafira.

In Kafiran society, mediocrity is realized at a higher level. It is expected that leadership in a society should be selected from the top cream of persons. They should be refined, polished, disciplined, and well natured individuals who are able to understand and effectively respond to the challenges facing the society. However, in Kafira, we find it different. For instance, Mulili who is an exceptionally highly placed person in the Kafiran establishment displays qualities that are so below par. The following examples testify to this assertion.

- ✓ His level of his education and personal efficiency is wanting .This is clearly exemplified in in the quality of language he shamelessly uses. Among many disgusting utterances he produces are as follows.
 - *We want no anymore bloody bloodshed. We have seen enough. Just who you want to murder next? Pg 9.*
 - *You people full of primitive. Instead of going to see how the other is they come and get stuck with the dead one pg 10.*
 - *You see he now being pretend. All they want is the bloody ceremony.pg11.*
 - *All right, I am now sorrowful. I honest doesn't know it will affect you. Pg15.*
 - *I objection Mr chaiman. Children should must see for themselves. Pg 55.*

The shameless use of such disturbing utterances in public by a senior government official without any scruples is a clear indication of how the Kafiran administration has sunk low in the estimation of the public. It's a mediocre administration.

Elsewhere, Nicodemo shamelessly places opium in Mosese's car occasioning his arrest and imprisonment. He does so with total impunity.(pg 25). He knows that he is fully

protected by the leadership. This is mistreatment of innocent and straight forward members of the society. There is no justice or fairness. This is also a characteristic of a mediocre administration.

The way Boss acts when he gets Regina to his place and the subsequent treatment of his wife (as reported by Jusper (pg 61) is also a case in Point. A leader of such a status should be beyond reproach. However, Boss is demonstratively below our expectations.

Also, the events leading to Kabitos death(Pg 56-60) are indications of a sick and very badly governed society.

To entertain the visiting head of state, a competition is staged to get the winning playwright. However, Tumbo unilaterally pronounces Jusper as the winner without following the laid down procedures.(Pg48.) The way this is done and the announcement of the winner is so funny and mediocre.

Revenge.

Revenge is a case whereby one retaliates or pays back to an action that had been done to him/her in an unfair manner. The theme of revenge runs throughout the play.

The first action of revenge involves Jusper. When his brother Adika is killed by Chagaga, during the students demonstration in the city, this affects him so much that it is feared that he is likely to create chaos during his brothers burial. This however does not diminish the intensity of his bitterness towards Chagaga. When he is released after a brief imprisonment and his parents ask him to watch his brothers grave, he sneaks away in search of Chagaga whom he gets and murders. He has no regrets over the killing as he says, " Now I know how they feel when they do it. Can I go to confess I did it? (Pg 9). After his parents have been murdered, he swears that he can't rest with the death of his entire family on his mind.

Doga is burning with a desire to avenge his son's death. He feels wounded by people who killed his son and now they have followed him to the grave. To show his anger and the need for revenge, he curses Mulili when he says, 'Empty words will be your

downfall. May you die the way Adika died.” (Pg 10).At the end of the play, this curse is fulfilled.

The disagreement between Jere and Mulili when they are sent to guard Adika’s grave results in Jere using disrespectful language against Mulili and even shooting at him as he speeds away.pg 15. Mulili does not just stop at this. He promises that he (Jere) will, pay for it. “ You shall pays for it.” (Pg 15) He later revenges by instigating Jere’s arrest and imprisonment.

During the meeting for planning for the foreign head of state’s visit, it is made clear that 600 prisoners will be pardoned if the play some of them are to act is successful. However, Nicodemo is very apprehensive. He says ..

‘If that man Mosese is pardoned, it will be personal tragedy for me. I oppose this whole idea of prisoners sharing the dais with the rest of us.’ Pg 52

He is afraid of Mosese revenging against him because he is the one who betrayed him by planting drugs in his car.

At the entertainment planning committee, Mulili has differences with Kabito. This is after Mulili mistakes Kabito’s utterances to calling him a primary school kid. Kabito goes ahead to sarcastically tell Mulili to tell them the day he stepped into a secondary school. Mulili is so angered. He tells Kabito that he will pay for this. “ You plays with fire you goat. (Pg 57). These words are later reign forced by Boss when Mulili gives him false accusations against Kabito. He says, “When a man plays with fire, he gets burned.” Pg 60. He immediately commands Mulili to stage manage an accident and later Kabito is found dead.

Towards the end of the play, Jere and Mosese revenge the suffering the people of kafira have suffered under the Boss’s regime by executing Mulili and taking power (symbolized by the guns) in their hands.

Jere also executes Mulili on personal grounds of all he has suffered from him.

Traditions.

Traditions are cultural and societal practices that are characteristic of a certain community. The Kafiran society is characterized of certain practices. For instance, following Adikas death, the parents Nina and Doga feel obliged to conduct a shaving ceremony. It is this shaving ceremony that the Kafiran authorities are afraid of, feeling it will rekindle the memories of Adika which can easily arouse communal emotions and ignite agitations. This tradition is meant to satisfy and assuage the emotions of the parents and close relatives of the deceased and is therefore majorly harmless. Other than letting it go on, the heedless Kafiran administration bungles everything creating more problems in itself. These events contributes to the disastrous turn of the events for the leaders at the end.

There is also a traditional belief that the killers of a human being are normally haunted by his/her spirit or ghost. To escape this, the killer schemes to secretly burn the grave of the deceased symbolically burning the spirit preventing it from hunting him. This is exactly what happens when Juper who is left to guard Adika's grave slipped away to kill chagaga. By slipping away and leaving the grave unguarded, Adika's killers got humble opportunity to burn the grave and hence the crack on it when Nina and Doga visit it at the start of the play.

While Nina is admonishing Mulili and Jere who have been sent to announce the cancellation of the ceremony and guard the grave, (pg 9), she tells them she can strip naked before them causing them blindness. According to traditions, stripping naked by an age mates parent is regarded as an abomination that can be attended with disastrous consequences. Though uncommon, it is therefore a traditional step warning or at worst meant to punish the errand and disobedience people of a younger age .

Neocolonialism

Kafira is an independent state, however, the staff at the university of Kafira is still predominantly expatriates. (Pg 14-15).This is a case of neo colonialism as kafira cannot control sensitive institutions like universities by employing its professionals.

Foreign powers still exert a lot of control on Kafiran affairs. Regarding the foreign head of state who is due to visit kafira, Jusper reveals to us through his conversation with Regina, (pg 36).

Yes, with so many of his subjects unemployed, he is virtually jobless himself. He comes on a survey mission.

While Tumbo is explaining to the entertainment committee the importance of the foreign head of state visit, he says,

...Boss himself stresses the need to delight the visitor. Remember it is through his visit that the voice of our negotiators may continue to be heard.

This is a clear manifestation of how dependent of foreign masters kafira and its administration is.

Favoritism and nepotism.

Favoritism is a practice of favouring a person or a group at the expense of the others. Nepotism refers to the act of favouring people who are relatives. Both favoritism and nepotism do exist in this play.

The supreme leader of kafira state is Boss. He practices favoritism and nepotism. For instance, he has appointed Mulili who is his cousin and given him a very high and influential position in the government although Mulili is a very incompetent person. Mulili's performance in the administration is pathetic; however, he very confidently retains his banking on his consanguinity with Boss.

During the award of tenders for supply of milk to the university, Kabito initially and fairly secures the tender but when Mulili visits Boss, the decision is revoked in favour of Mulili who is Boss's cousin (pg54).

In prison, we meet with another case of favoritism when the Askari comes with a mug of tea (pg27) and offers it to only Mosese, excluding Jere. He favours one person and excludes the other.

Elsewhere, a competition for writing a play for the entertainment of the state guest is announced and various entries are received. The plays are supposed to be read and analyzed so that the winning one is selected and its winner awarded a prize. However, Tumbo, the chairman of the entertainment committee unilaterally announces Jusper's play the winner without following the procedures (pg48); He favours Jusper against the other competitors believing that Jusper is the cousin of Regina his girlfriend.

Favoritism and nepotism are social vices. A combination of these vices and other make Kafira an unattractive society to live in.

The Role of The educated and the elite in a society.

Throughout the play, students feature prominently as a powerful force to change the society. The conflict in the play builds up following a student's- Adika's death. Here, the students are struggling to liberate Kafira from dictatorship. As we are told in the play, Adika died "for the truth". His death however sows seeds of determination in students- the likes of Jusper to continue fighting for Justice in Kafira.

Therefore one of the crucial role of students is to fight for proper governance. This is where we see them protesting over poor governance policies that have seen the country populated by expatriates instead of Africans contrary to the Africanization programme. The students are also ready to fight over any burning issue that seems of no interest to the public good. For instance we are told that students are opposed to the foreign dignitary's visit (pg 68) as it will be of no use to them. They are also seen ridiculing the government over what should be given priority in the development agenda. Jusper who represents the students satirizes this by saying that during the prayers, they asked God to help them drop their Christian names. All in all, the students

therefore are seen as people who are always keeping this government in check each and every time and also provide a voice for the voiceless in a society.

Students are also brought out as spokesmen of truth and Justice. During a conversation with Jusper, Boss asks him who appointed the students spokesmen of truth and justice. Due to this, Boss and his officials do not hide their disgust for students as they think they talk too much and waste a lot of time over nothing gainful than concentrating on their studies. Boss (pg 68) accuses them of being unreasonable, clueless and disgusting. Tumbo (pg41) says they are a 'pain in the neck' and drink too much alcohol. This hatred sparks from them criticizing the government now and again. They are even described as people who lack understanding since they think they will remain students forever.

The educated elites on the other hand are portrayed as people who are not interested in struggle for a better change. While students are always keeping the government in check, the educated - the likes of Mosese remain hopeless and disillusioned and have nothing to do about their situations. (Pg 28) he says, 'It was better while we waited . Now we have nothing to look forward to. We have killed our past and are busy killing the future.'" Mostly, these people are used of their comfort zones and hence cannot gather enough courage to question anything that seems wrong. When students initiate a protest however, that is when you will see them come up. These elite also do not want to participate in politics which is presumably a dirty game. They leave it to the dumbest and illiterates like Mulili and stay back lamenting as things go bad not offering any solution.

The message Imbuga therefore wants to pass is that both the students and the educated elite should collaborate and corroborate for a common purpose. They ought not to shy away from politics but should participate towards bringing the desired changes in a country. They should realize that intellectual component is required in politics and not leaving illiterates to take charge of government hence spreading terror on innocent citizens.

