

JUSTICE

Dialogue participants question Tanzania's welfare

Scholars dub TZ primitive state

The observers attributed the looming shaky health of the nation to the rulers' failure to dispense justice, prompting the ruled to take the law into their own hands.

By Patty Magubira
The Citizen Reporter

Dar es Salaam. Tanzania's welfare came under public scrutiny on Thursday with some observers blaming people over what they said was 'a primitive stage of capitalism blossoming into a failed state'.

According to them, indicators of 'a failed state' include abuse of power, primitive accumulation of wealth, deregulation of welfare and popular resistance.

They attributed the looming shaky health of the nation to the rulers' failure to dispense justice, prompting the ruled to disregard the law by taking it into their own hands.

Worse still, the tendency by the country's police officers to use force that is not proportional to incidents at hand, compromises the confidence they had built over the years in and outside the country.

"Saying a demonstration

without a permit is always not peaceful is a farce, as most of them turn out to be non-violent," a law scholar, Prof Bonaventura Rutinwa, argued.

Democracy being all about a struggle, requiring politicians, activists or workers to ask for permission ahead of demonstrating or striking is a tall order,

“Justifying the gaffe by saying a demonstration without a permit is always not peaceful is a farce, as most of them turn out to be non-violent.”

PROFESSOR BONAVENTURA RUTINWA, A LAW SCHOLAR

added Dr Ayoub Rioba, a lecturer at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Observers recalled the killing of the Channel Ten reporter, Mr Daudi Mwangosi, and wondered if a grenade was at all required to stop him from advancing when at least seven anti-riot police officers had already cornered him.

They also thought that the Tanzania People's Defence Forces had engaged in extra-judicial killings when soldiers killed five herders on the fringes of the Selous Game Reserve in Ulanga District.

The same applied when an auxiliary police officer with Mwanza City had reportedly killed a petty trader alleged to resist the city official's attempt to confiscate his goods. This occurred when the authorities were evicting vendors from their prime business spots.

The lives of 52 innocent people in the custody of state organs and private security firms were lost in 2010 alone, according to the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) official reports.

According to the LHRC researcher, Mr Pasienc Mlowe, while the death toll arising from politically-motivated violence was also increased, activists were not spared.

Assailants had mysteriously attacked and tortured a medical association leader, Dr Stephen Ulimboka, early this year for his unwavering stance to defend the noble profession.