

PLEASE VOTE AS KENYA DECIDES

Many times most of us decide not to vote thinking that our one vote can never make a difference. We think that our one vote is a drop in the ocean and is insignificant. To the contrary that one vote has in history decided fates of people's lives; careers of would be leaders and leaders and destruction of lives and directions of nations. Picture these:

1. Adolf Hitler was elected leader of the Nazi party by a single vote in 1923. How he changed the world by killing over six million Jews! That one vote that propelled him to such world notoriety made the difference.
2. In 1776, one vote gave United States of America the English language instead of German.
3. In 1875, one vote changed the France from being a monarchy to a republic.
4. In 1876, it was one vote that made a difference in the United States of America. Rutherford B. Hayes became the president over Samuel Tilden of the Democratic Party.
5. Atal Vajpayee lost the prime minister ship of India by a single vote. Never in history of India had a prime minister been impeached.
6. A.R.Krisnamurthy lost an election in Karnataka India by a single vote in 2004 against his rival Dhruvanayans. Vote count was 40,751 against 40,752

These are just but a few instances where significant things have happened in history because of a single vote. The narrative now in the country is that we should go out and vote, because by not voting you will have voted in a bad leader by default. As the campaigns have ended all that remains is for us to cast our votes. It cannot be repeated enough that your vote can make a great difference even when you think it doesn't count. As you contemplate to vote, know that you are the employer of those seeking elective posts of the president; Governor, senator, member of parliament, women representatives and members of county assemblies.

They have presented us with their CV's and all that remains if for you and I to choose the best candidate who will steer this country's leadership. As we all know some of their CV's are deceptive knowing that not all of them will abide by the ideals they have sold to us but by their own appetites which is rife in politics and most human endeavors.

Having said that, as Kenyans and particularly as believers, we should know that even after our voting, our favorite leaders might not be elected. Accepting this with a sober mind and being level headed will ensure that there is peace even after we cast our votes. We should not allow anything to rob us of our peace because it is the bed rock of justice.

As the many voices have spoken and some only to intimidate and cause fear, we as believers should know that God is in control. In our neighborhoods, we should refrain from negative ethnicity which segregates and separates but extend a hand of brotherhood that shields us as the electorate from misplaced trust in human leaders instead of God. He alone can honor our trust if we let him because he can shield us from the canopy of darkness that engulfs us repeatedly in times such as these.

We should not live in fear knowing that no matter what one does by pouring out money to buy voters, instil fear by perpetuating tribal rhetoric, God has everything in his sights. He is not wondering who will become the president-he is not scratching his head wondering what will become of nations. He lifts up one leader and pulls down another and he is involved and steers all the affairs of men. All leaders should

on this very day meditate on all of psalms 2 and know that God knows and is aware of everything in our lives. Looking at verse 4-6-*the one enthroned in heaven laughs; the lord scoffs at them. Then he rebukes them in anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, I have installed my king on Zion, my holy hill.*

We should know that he will uphold this nation so that peace will prevail. As believers we have prayed and by faith we know he has heard our prayers because he says in **Philippians 4:6-7**, *do not be anxious about anything, by prayer and petition with thanks giving, present your request to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* We should rest easy because God is faithful and watches his word to perform it- Jeremiah 1:12.

As we go to the polls, to those vying for elective posts, May God give you peace and successes. If you win, all glory to him but if you lose, all thanks to him who orders events in our lives- because he says we should give thanks in everything. Borrowing from the founder of the behemoth ecommerce platform alibaba.com, jack ma's mantra of life which is never to complain in the face of defeat-after being denied entry into Harvard University, he re-applied 9 more times but still did not get in. He decided to go a different direction becoming one of the richest men in china. If you lose, it is not the end of life but a place of introspection. You can win next time and better still in something else. Be a leader.

To those working for the I.E.B.C, we pray for protection that only God can provide. You have an onerous task of guiding the electorates during the voting process, counting and tallying the votes. We can only hope that you will be bold enough to declare the correct votes cast and prevent the country from going into panic. May you be custodians of truth, courage and not be intimidated. Be the gate keepers.

For those of us registered as voters, let's get out and vote. Not on tribal lines but on the premise that the leader we choose is fit; of integrity, will honor the office he was elected into and deliver on the resume he presented. Vote and preach peace. Be a patriot.

It is well.