

SWIMMING THE DEEP WATERS OF LEGAL PROFESSION

****A short story****

By Makando Herry¹

It was about evening, Ali was passing close to the Faculty of Law building and so he decided to say goodbye to his mentor for he was soon graduating.

(At the mentor's office)

Professor what will my LLB do for me after I graduate? Ali asked.

I don't know what your LLB will do for you but for me I know it gave me a teaching position in this University! Professor softly answered.

Do you mean every one will be rewarded immensely or less by his LLB? Ali had to ask.

Absolutely! That is why we kept encouraging you guys to practice self reliance because those who will be able to stand will not only eat but eat very well and yet those who will fail to stand will be murdered by the market system! Professor said.

Ali appears thinking deep and he then asked. What is this self reliance?

Professor looks straight into Ali's eyes and says. Listen Ali, your education and employment system is not the same as that of my days! Today with the presence of the private sector rule it is not easy but hard indeed! Graduates are forced to earn bread and butter and so little to do with building their professions!

But Prof every one works to earn a living! Ali asked.

Professor nods his head and speaks. You're very right! But for intellectuals like your living was supposed to be guaranteed so far your ready to serve! What is happening today is that you have to fight for your living and your biggest achievement will be that of getting a car loan, secure rent for house and a savings account with constant balance of less than six figures!

But Prof a car, a house is it not success! Ali asked with a surprise look.

Professor kept silent for a while and said. That is success if you view the rest of the world through Tanzanian window but if you are viewing Tanzania through the worlds window then you will one day understand!

I want to build myself alone my profession lines! Ali said in an emotional tone.

It's not easy to be professional in this system. No option for a better job but rather secure a job. What you studied at University has little to do with what you do in employment as long as your pay is there. This is free-market; it covers everything including freedom to diversify. Professor said while walking here and there in his office.

But I want to be a professional Ali said in a disappointment tone:

Professor stops and touches Ali on his shoulder. If you want to be professional, that is not a joke! That means you want to test deep waters were sharks reside!

Ali looks scared and tense. Which Sharks! Fisadi Papa?

Professor breaks into a slight laughter and says. No! These are profession Papa's! They know well the theories of the best staves and weak dies and there general rule is that "who owns the gold makes the

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rules". Your wants matters less to them but what they want from you must matter most. Forget professionalism!

But Prof How possible can it be? Ali asked.

Rahisi sana! Your dreams will come true as they give you a car loan, a house fees and an account with a bank that has a reliable ATM. Now the cost is its either you diversify completely from profession or you are restricted alone a certain division in your profession for the rest of the days in your working life!

That is crippling! I do not want to be employed! I want to employ myself! I do not want to be crippled? Ali said and his eyes show a stress.

Professor smiles again and stares at his book shelf and says. You see Ali! Sometimes its better to have vocational education cause its easy to employ your self, you look for a premise and start a workshop! But this white collar jobs are prestigious for nothing sometimes especially to us who have difficulty backgrounds. It is the University that keeps you in this big city and it's just few days it will humbly give you a degree and which in turns means goodbye to you! How will you survive without money for food and rent!

I have nothing, empty! I am just empty! Ali said while smiling.

Professor keeps busy looking for a book and says! Ali you should not worry! Most sharks you will meet were once here as small fish but they survived the waters! But days are coming they will fail to swim deeper and in colder areas and that will be your day!

But I will be a cripple by the time they let me free! Ali said.

No one lets you free, you will free yourself before its late and you will swim your own deep waters and some small fish will come to you just as you went to big fish! If you fear the system you will die of hunger and no one will ever believe you that you missed a job in a city with storey's full of offices everywhere! Professor said in a polite tone.

I will go to Posta to look for a job after my graduation! Ali said.

Are you read to sweat till when your freedoms come? Professor asked Ali

Yes, I am ready to be crippled a little just only for one day to be completely free! Free for me to swim the deep waters of this profession and even dare to go in the coldest parts of its world. Ali said in a confident manner.

Professor was impressed with Ali's confidence; he said. My LLB gave me this office but I pray that your LLB gives you even more handsomely and immensely!

Ali stood and said. One day I will come back to look for small fish who are ready to swim with me in the deep waters!

Professor laughed, took a book and gave to Ali. Please receive this book, it will be helpful to you on your way, I was given by my mentor.

Ali received the book and said: Prof I am thankful for this book and for all my life you have mentored.

Thank you for thanking me Ali. Prof said.

Ali looked straight at Professors eyes and said. Do not forget Prof, I will come back one day!

Professor smiled and looked at Ali's eyes and said in an emotional tone. *Inshallah!* I will be here waiting!

Ali left full of hopes

End.