



Traffic offenders in a Millmani court yesterday. They were arrested for speeding, lack of uniforms, safety belts and speed governors for their PSVs  
/COLLINS KWEYU

## LETTERS

Send your views to [letters@the-star.co.ke](mailto:letters@the-star.co.ke)

### Use social media to get Kenyans talking about road safety

Road accidents are regarded by the WHO as one of the fastest-growing threats to human life. Knowing how to drive does not necessarily mean you stop learning how to. Learning and applying the knowledge are two different things. Obeying road signs is a very important aspect of good driving. Most accidents are caused by drivers using roads they are not familiar with. Communication and education through the distribution of road safety information are important elements of road safety strategies. It is important that road safety communicators stay in touch with the latest technology and tools of communication to convey road safety messages. Drivers should stop using mobile phones and talking while driving. The road safety campaign should focus on pushing for improved infrastructure, road design, raising safety standards, proper enforcement, proper traffic control, incident response and better pedestrian management. We also need rigorous law enforcement and adequate zebra crossings as well as tunnels and footbridges. Motorists and pedestrians also need a change in attitude. Back in the day, there was a song with the line "Dereva chungu maisha (Driver protect life)". Even children knew it. Social media has opened a new world of communication and can be used to help change motorists' and pedestrians' attitude towards road safety. Road safety can only be achieved with the participation of the public, and social media provides the opportunity for the public to get involved in road safety discussions and share their concerns, suggestions, etc. The ball is in your court Kenya Roads Board and the National Transport and Safety Authority. It's up to you to make Kenya's roads safer.

**VERONICA ONJORO**  
Publisher, author

### We have ourselves to blame for matatu transport nightmare

Sunday and Monday have been a nightmare in terms of transport. But really, we have ourselves to blame. We've encouraged ineptitude in the public transport sector. We board unroadworthy matatus and buses. We don't mind getting into vehicles already overloaded with passengers. In fact, when one refuses to make room for an extra passenger on a three-seat bench, other passengers and the conductor shout you down and even ask you to alight, after all, "Hii dunia ni kusaaidiana (We have to help each other out in this world)." But at what expense?

**MERCY WATHA**  
Nairobi

### Sex education in schools can prevent teen pregnancies

A multi-disciplinary approach that involves parents, adolescents, education and health players is needed to prevent teenage pregnancies. Teen pregnancy not only results in school dropouts but also has physical and psychological health effects on young girls. Giving birth when the body is not fully developed, according to gynaecologists, can result in pelvic inflammatory diseases. Young girls who become pregnant also face stigma. There is need therefore to address the root causes of teen pregnancies. We need to introduce sex education in schools. School heads must also be charged with the responsibility of monitoring child-teacher relationships. Some students are impregnated by their teachers. Guidance and counselling will also play a key role.

**DANIEL OTIENO**  
NAYA Kenya

### Kenyans won't be fooled by hustlers, dynasties debate

Recently, the Daily Nation reported that the 2022 political contest would be between dynasties and hustlers. But I ask, would you blame the children for their fathers' wrongdoing, if any? No. If that were the case, Kenyans would not elect them. The hustlers, on the other hand, plundered their way to power. This is not the first time Kenyans are confronted with this scenario and therefore I don't expect their decision in 2022 to be influenced by such politics. In an election, meritocracy and track record are key determinants of how people will vote. Non-dynasts Kalonzo Musyoka, Charity Ngilu and Martha Karua have all unsuccessfully run for president. Was it because they were from poor families? Yes, money and political networks are critical in wooing voters. However, I would not expect Kenyans to be fooled by ill-gotten wealth and entrust their lives to personalities implicated in all manner of crime, including mega graft scandals. I'm not saying a hustler cannot lead, but they should have qualities of a good leader. For now, it looks like Opposition leader Raila Odinga and Deputy President William Ruto will be the key players in the Uhuru secession politics. For Ruto, it is obvious that he will run. Raila might throw his hat in the ring or play the role of king-maker. Whichever will be the case, you can only underrate him at your own peril. Uhuru has chided those pushing the succession agenda. President Barack Obama supported Hillary Clinton and she still lost. Even if Uhuru supports Ruto, it is Kenyans who will make the final decision. The undocumented Jubilee pact is not binding as it was not approved by Kenyans. And the President can choose not to support any candidate, as did President Kibaki.

**MUTUA NDONGA**  
Political analyst and blogger

## VOX POP

COMPILED BY CORAZON WAFULA

### Should Kenya rethink its ties with China?



**Yes:** Considering the public outcry over the influx of Chinese citizens in the country and the mistreatment of Kenyans in their employ.

**JOHN KYALO**  
Nairobi



**Yes:** From the look of things our nation might just be brought to its knees by our own problems.

**ALICE NDERITU**  
Businesswoman, Trans Nzoia



**Yes:** Kenya should never have made deals with China. We feel enslaved in our own country. Everything is Chinese. Even our casual jobs have been taken over by the Chinese.

**MERCY MUKAISI**  
Member, Trans Nzoia Women Leaders



**No:** We don't have a choice at this point. We owe China a lot of money since they have been giving us loans without the conditions imposed by the US and the UK.

**EUCABETH ODONGO**  
Trans Nzoia

