

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Mrs. Miriga,

In light of resurgence of unnecessary ugly internet wars following a recent visit to the US by a Kenyan politician, memory demands that we walk down its lane and recall the many occasions in which one of the accused has in the past gone out of his way, working with others, to host a number of Kenyan politicians upon their visits to the DC Metropolitan area. At times, because these events come at short notices, we fail to get public premises to host such events, and on such occasions, Mr. John Akumu always comes to our rescue by offering his private residence as an alternative.

Since 1990, Mr. Akumu has continuously worked with other Kenyans in this area to facilitate communication between our politicians back home and the Kenyans in the Diaspora. If and when circumstances force us to hold such events in his private premises, Mr. Akumu has always graciously extended invitation to other Kenyans in this area and beyond to come and interact with the visiting politicians or other high ranking officials from different business sectors in Kenya. Many Kenyans have expressed their appreciations to this exemplary role by John.

Within the last few years, members of our DC Metropolitan community have mingled freely with dignitaries such as Kenya's Prime Minister Hon. Eng. Raila Amolo Odinga, Deputy Finance Minister Hon. Dr. Oburu Oginga, Immigration Minister Hon. Gerald Otieno Kajwang, ODM Chief Whip and our very own, Hon. Washington Jakoyo Midiwo, ODM Pentagon member and Minister for Cooperatives, Hon. Joseph Nyagah, ODM Chief Spokesman Mr. Salim Lone, former MPs Peter Oloo Aringo and Reuben Ndolo; and Chairman of East Africa Law Society, Mr. Tom Ojienda among others. ODM supporters in Washington Metropolitan area have always organized such meetings with Mr. Akumu playing a central role on all the occasions.

To refresh your memory, recently Hon. Joseph Nyagah, Minister for Cooperative Development and ODM Spokesman Salim Lone visited the US in the wake of congressional hearings on the stolen elections and once again Mr. Akumu, upon request, kindly offered to host these leaders to a dinner at his residence; and, everybody was welcomed to attend. There was no single complaint from any quarters.

Similar events organized by others have occurred in recent past. For example, in 2006, the Minister for Agriculture Hon. William Samoei Ruto led a team of six Kalenjin MPs to different parts of the US and in all those areas all Kenyans were invited to meet with these Honorable Members of the 9th parliament. There was no single complaint from any quarters as to why they were being hosted at a specific place and with a specific community. In fact, any complaint in regards to being cut off from meeting these leaders never arose. Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka also made his way to Texas and DC and yet again there was no complaint of anybody being cut off. As a matter of fact in Kalonzo's case it was wanainchi who cut him off.

We ODM supporters find it quite wrong and unfair for you to accuse Mr. Akumu of hoarding Professor Peter Anyang Nyon'go, the Minister for Medical Services at a time when Mr. Akumu himself was en route to a business trip to Central Africa. It is also very important that you discontinue causing confusion amongst ourselves due to your our