

Ten reasons why mental illness must be declared national emergency

GenZ: Imagine, this report says 3,000 people drown in Uganda every year!

Mzee: What crisis did I miss?

GenZ: You didn't miss it, two years back they warned us that 14 million Ugandans are mentally unwell and some thought it was a joke. But clearly a third of the population is mentally unwell. This is far worse than malaria, HIV and COVID was!

Mzee: But we've lived with the 14 million mentally ill even if now they could be 15 or 16 million.

GenZ: But they are affecting everything else.

Mzee: Give me ten reasons to justify an emergency.

GenZ: One, the normalisation of murder. Every day, eleven Ugandans are murdered, according to last year's crime report. Even teenagers are stabbing others over girlfriends, and life continues. Men are killing wives and wives are killing husbands, like flies.

Mzee: Second reason?

GenZ: The normalisation of obscenity. See the clothes women wear now, or absence of clothes. Are they competing with wild animals to walk naked?

Mzee: Number three?

GenZ: Acceptance of theft as if it's not a crime. Evidence is all around. All the thieves we know who should be in prison are free and respected.

Mzee: Number four?

GenZ: Choking water bodies with waste including human. How many people have been jailed for it if we haven't accepted choking fresh water with the unmentionable?

Mzee: Number five?

GenZ: Acceptance of being poisoned daily by smoking vehicles! Why did they even

ban cigarette smoking in public when dirty vehicles keep pumping soot into our lungs? Every time I see a traffic policeman ignoring a truck pumping visible soot into him, not to mention the rest of the vehicles whose soot from the dirty fuels can't be seen by the eye and they never get checked...

Mzee: Okay, number six?

GenZ: Normalisation of rampant traffic abuse by whoever can get a lead car and a siren, a preserve of the President and ambulances, yet the ambulances carrying critically ill persons get blocked by the traffic.

Mzee: Number seven?

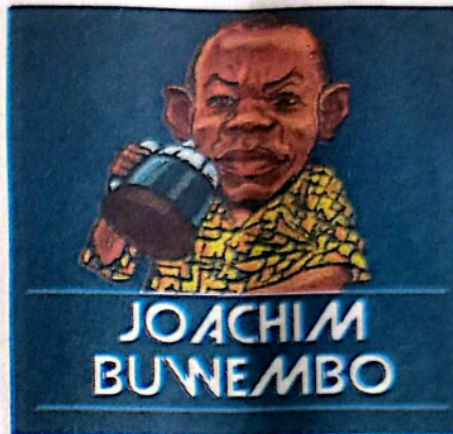
GenZ: Those with more money eating badly, yet they do important work and employ people, yet they eat rubbish just because it is packaged attractively.

Mzee: Number eight?

GenZ: Normalisation of land grabbing, including public land. If the Government can miserably fail to protect its land, how will poor peasants protect theirs?

Mzee: Number nine?

GenZ: Parents fuelling the cost of education instead of pushing for the perfection of Universal Primary Education and Universal Secondary Education. Even those without money take their kids to private schools and then beg for fees from others, torturing them with Black Tax. Why should the Government



spend on education if people want to pay where they shouldn't pay?

Mzee: Number ten?

GenZ: Jointly killing of the health system, and claiming that Universal Health Insurance is too expensive. A conspiracy of the rich and the poor to ensure the public health remains undermined.

Mzee: Aaaaah, ok! The nearest we ever got to a state of emergency was during COVID-19. How would the emergency be enforced? Make everyone stay home so mad people do not stone them? Keep 15 million people in detention? Are there test kits for madness?

And what would be the mental state of those operating them?

GenZ: You gotta start somewhere. Start from those whom the Government has control over. Let every public servant undergo tests to confirm they are mentally okay.

Mzee: That would be like profiling people - denying them employment because of a health problem!

GenZ: Should people then be employed to the detriment of the public? Would you employ a blind person to drive a bus or even a bodaboda? If not, does that amount to discriminating against them?

Mzee: You are stretching it. If someone does their job well why should you subject them to a mental health test?

GenZ: Because some people do their job too well and endanger the public. A clever person steals public money without being detected. Only a mental test can establish if they are likely to steal, if for example they feel no regret for stealing public funds, if they feel entitled to steal, that is real madness.

Mzee: That will attract enough lawsuits against the Government.

GenZ: So is it better to leave thieves in office?

Mzee: They are not thieves unless a competent court says so.