



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

Kunapipi

Volume 27 | Issue 1

Article 13

2005

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Recommended Citation

Mavia, David, Nyof Nyof, *Kunapipi*, 27(1), 2005.

Available at: <http://ro.uow.edu.au/kunapipi/vol27/iss1/13>

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NyofNyof

Abstract

Ati the makanga of the fifty-eight mathree was mbolox so Koi fuatad nyayo and placed herself in the admirable eyes of Waf (short for Wafula). Waf was the dere of Western Bull, the mathree known for its bullish horn that attracted the choosiest of the bunch in Buru. She had dissed Maish because he was not focused; he happened to be bila chums and needed also to improve on perso. Lately it was rumoured he was courting some kahigh school projo which made Koi feel old and intimidated. Koi was a typical Boma girl trying to organise her perso and recently employed as a marketer for Safaricom.

DAVID MAVIA

Nyof Nyof

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Unbeknownst to her Waf was not what she envisaged trust deres. There was this afti when she happened to be marketing near Mesora and for some reason after calling the office established it was not necessary to go back. So she went like to look for some lunch. She remembered the kajoint where the deres normally buy their nyam chom and headed there just in case she could capitalise or perchance Waf would be there.

The joint wasn't really parked but the nyam chom was calling yaani the aroma was beckoning her to some lunch. Njoro happened to be the one running the joint on this day. He gave her that knowing look and asked her, 'Kama kawaida?'

'Lakini usijaze', she replied. She juad that if she kulad so much it would take some time before she shed of the kaththreatening pot.

'Hizi ndiyo masaa za Waf mulikuwa nakadate nini?' Njoro asked.

'Zi ni kuchance tu', she responded knowingly. The kiosk was another of those information agencies. Vibe must have gone round that something was cutting between her and Waf.

She thought she heard Western Bull mathree honk and brake. Then she heard the familiar voice Waf's.

'Soja si unipigie roundi utapat ka nishaa beng kidogo?'

'Sawa Waf', Soja seemed to oblige.

Then she thought she heard some kagiggle and Waf's voice seemingly inducing some concern like he was vibing some kagirl. She just tuliad and in came Waf. He was with some kasupu holding her compromisingly and as he entered shouted, 'Vipi Njoro nijazie kama kawaida na unitreatie haka ka KAP.'

Njoro tried to contain himself and pretended he was wiping the table then he whispered to Waf, 'We ushaabambwa si uchecki one o'clock'. He turned in shock

in time to see Koi leaving. Tongue tied and slightly embarrassed he stayed on guilty as charged.

Meanwhile Koi realised that she had been taken for a ride and began to understand that he was a man of the industry and things had just gone Nyof Nyof — it was seemingly a pretty mbof storo.

GLOSSARY

Afti — afternoon.

Ati — in the strictest terms it means ‘that’ but in use it carries exclamative tendencies so it would rightly be interpreted as ‘imagine’.

Better option — Safaricom’s slogan.

Bila chums — without money.

Boma — nickname of one Girls High School in Nairobi.

Buru — short form of an resident estate in Nairobi known as Buru Buru.

Dere — from the Swahili word ‘Dereva’ which is the English version of ‘Driver’.

Dissed — ‘to be left unceremoniously’, sometimes lightly used when someone is chiding another.

Fifty-Eight Mathree — the passenger cabs (Nissans) in Nairobi have routes and numbers and are referred to as Mathree which is an English version of Matatu. Tatu stands for number Three.

Fuata — to follow in Swahili.

Hizi ndizo masaa za Waf mulikuwa na kadate nini? — these are Wafula’s hours for lunch are you two having a date?

Juad — corrupted version of Swahili word ‘know’, though this indicates that it is in the past tense ‘knew’.

Kagiggle — a giggle but as previously explained ‘ka’ a small one.

Kagirl — a girl but as previously explained a small one.

Kahigh — ‘high’ but ‘ka’ indicates smallness or petite.

Kajoint — a place can be a café, its mostly associated with a communal gathering for various reasons. ‘Ka’ emphasises its smallness.

Kama kawaida — as usual in Swahili.

Kasupu — a beautiful girl.

Kathrening pot — a threatening potbelly.

Koi — short form of Wangoi a girls name from Kikuyu people.

Kulad — ate.

Lakini usijaze — ‘but do not fill to the brim’ or ‘don’t put too much’.

Maish — short for Maina, a boys name from the Kikuyu people.

Makanga — refers to the Nairobi colourful and noisy cab conductors (assistants) who ensure money is collected from the passengers and indicate every time a passenger gets to their station.

Mbof — from Swahili word ‘mbovu’ which means useless also.

Mbolox — the sheng version of Bollocks.

Mesora — a shopping centre in Nairobi.

Njoro — short for Njoroge a boys name in Kikuyu.

Nyam Chom — comes from ‘Nyama Choma’ in Swahili which means Roast Meat.

Nyayo — ‘foot print’, though popularised by our former President as his ruling philosophy.

Nyof Nyof — a more corrupted version of the word ‘useless’.

Perso — personality.

Projo — project.

Safaricom — a major cell phone service provider in Nairobi.

Sawa Waf — it is okay Waf.

Soja si unipigie raundi utapat kaa nishaa beng kidogo? — Soja please go round and pick up passengers for me when you come I will already have eaten.

Something cutting — something going on.

Vibe — talk.

Vipi Njoro nijazie kama kawaida na untreatie haka ka KAP — hi Njoro serve me my usual.

Waf — short form of Wafula, a boys name from the Luhya Bukusu people.

We ushaabambwa si uchecki one o’clock — you have been nabbed look at the one o’clock angle.

Zi kuchance tu — No I am just chancing.