

UNI-FORM/MULTI-FORM (or mistaken identity)

As Ghanaian philosopher Antony Appiah tackles in his more recent books, the problem of our time is a problem of identity. In the same way Europe, Asia and American, Kenya is facing the same question. As every African country, identity, lies in a post-colonial reconstruction of the culture. We can quickly get mistaken by appearance and believes. In Kenya the use of uniforms is widely spread, accepted and rooted in the culture. This practice of cloth distinguishment was brought by the colonisation in opposition to the use of traditional ethnic apparats. The uniformizing of the Kenyan Nation resulted in "Technical Identity".

The definition of uniform has many shades:

1. a **particular** set of **clothes** that has to be **worn** by the **members** of the same **organization** or **group** of **people**,
2. having always the same form, manner, or degree: not varying or variable <**uniform procedures**> ,
3. consistent in conduct or opinion <**uniform interpretation of laws**> ,
4. of the same form with others: **conforming** to one rule or mode,
5. **consonant**, presenting an unvaried appearance of surface, pattern, or colour.

The uniform is a cultural expression that needs to be explored. It came to every civilization with the organization and distribution of tasks and implied a certain degree of acceptance and compliance. It loses its meaning with the growth of education.

Did Kenya benefit from the uniformizing of its people? What does a uniform means to you?

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