

# 2 MyNetwork



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## VIRGINITY : WHAT IS IT WORTH?

Does an "unpopped cherry" still represent a woman's worth? MyNetwork spoke to four young adults and this is what they had to say about the value of virginity **P.4&5**

# MyNetwork Show Biz



Elizabeth Ngigi

## Review

### PODCAST REVIEW

*The Messy Inbetween* (TMI) Podcast stands out as a refreshing and candid take on life's messy realities. Hosted by Murugi Munyi and her best friend Lydia, this podcast has rapidly gained popularity for its authentic discussions. Speaking to My Network recently, Murugi Munyi expressed her concern that many issues affecting women daily were not being adequately addressed. From sex topics and career challenges to marriage, the podcast aims to shed light on overlooked subjects. She said more people resonate with what they talk about in the podcast, and that it is a part of their weekly routine. One of their major plans for the year is to have a live event where they will meet and interact with their fans face to face. The podcast has 138 episodes with an episode dropping every week.

Ivy Namu, a content creator, burst into the spotlight four years ago amid rumours of a romantic relationship with media personality Willis Raburu. Before she became popular, Ivy says she cherished her private life as she could walk around and dress as she pleased. Today, she opens up about navigating stardom, reshaping her brand, and her decision to abandon a promising law career

## Hotspot



Prepare yourself for The Creators Festival Nairobi – an exciting day of networking, collaboration and fun. This event is an excellent opportunity for attendees to network with fellow creators, entrepreneurs, and innovators, encouraging new connections and partnerships that could ignite groundbreaking ideas. Additionally, explore our vendor marketplace offering unique products, including fashion and accessories. Engage with fellow creators, indulge in music, food, games, and competitions throughout the day. Later, groove to the beats of Nairobi's top DJs at our exclusive afterparty. The event runs from midday to 11pm at Nairobi Street Kitchen. As a special treat, all attendees will receive complimentary welcome cocktails.

### 1. As a public figure, what forms of cyberbullying have you ever experienced?

Social media is not a very friendly space. In 2022 I was trolled for an outfit I had worn to the *Wakanda* film premiere. I had delivered my second child Yara just five months before that and I was so excited to go watch the movie and be out for a couple of hours. I dressed up like a good mum and felt good about myself. You know the lack of body positivity you get after giving birth... you feel chubby and all that. I made a reel and posted it on my TikTok. I then slept only to wake up and find myself trending on TikTok when I woke up. People were saying I was the worst dressed person for that occasion. I remember wondering what was wrong with my outfit because I felt fine in it.

I just switched off my comments and blocked some toxic people. It didn't get to me so much but I restricted any further reactions. There was also a challenge with my relationship at the time and at some point I felt like I needed to just quit the internet and be quiet. It took a while to fight back the negativity from people who didn't know me. I decided to focus on the positive side of things.

### 2. How did your life change when you started dating famous TV presenter Willis Raburu?

To be honest, I was afraid to date Willis because his divorce was in the public domain.



# T5

# Ivy Namu Lindwa

Again, I feel like God got back at me because I knew what I was getting myself into. I was prepared since the people who mattered to me knew my truth and I didn't need to defend myself, so I fell in love and the rest is history.

I would say I have learnt the value of privacy. When you are not in public, you take for granted the fact that you can walk anywhere and do anything and nobody cares. I had to learn to be keen about everything I say on social media, what I post and even how I react because it is no longer about just me and my family anymore. Now, when I go somewhere and nobody takes a picture of me,

that is a good day for me.

My privacy was compromised and even now I have had to consciously reduce the number of pictures I post with my children, even though I am very proud of them and I like posting pictures of them. I am always afraid that tweeps may attack. But that space has also allowed me to experience a lot of love and support from people I don't even know.

### 3. As a mother, you seem incredibly focused on maintaining your health and well-being. Can you share with us your approach to health and how it influences your role as a parent?

Moving from feeding for two to being conscious about what I eat has been my main goal. I also exercise a lot. I have decided to become intentional about it because birthing and raising children is not an easy task. My second pregnancy is what puffed me up and I got to about 80 kilograms, from about 55kgs. I got to a point where people could not recognise me. Now, I keep introducing myself to people after pregnancy since I have lost so much weight. I am about 60kg and I aim to be healthy, although I am not so obsessed with cutting weight.

About motherhood, I am taking

it day by day and I love it. Watching my children start school gives me confidence. The secret about this journey is to be kind on yourself. My children have taught me a lot as a mother. I have two children under two years and balancing between my career aspirations and time spent with them has been hard. I had to deal with a lot of mum guilt and I had to spend time with both.

### 4. You have mentioned singing, tell us about your music journey and why you quit your law studies...

I am the first musician in our family. I used to sing in primary and high school. Most of my classmates thought I would become a musician immediately but I decided to take law as a career to make my parents happy. I studied law at Catholic University of Eastern Africa so that I could be away from home. I did the course for three and a half years and I quit. I had scored a B plain in high school despite always being in trouble.

The course got overwhelming and I was always sad. At the time, I didn't know much about anxiety, but I was not okay. I decided to take a break at first for one year and then when I went back I felt like the course wasn't in my heart anymore. The main reason I was feeling that was because I didn't feel like I was doing what I wanted. After I quit, I went to music school and that is also where I started doing social media management and digital strategy. That is how I ended up at Royal Media Services.

The law studies have helped me navigate both the entertainment industry and the digital space. I am able to read my contracts and negotiate for better perks which the law affords me. I have been recording music and I will be releasing an album later this year. I sing contemporary RnB music about kindness and being good to people. I have also written love songs, and songs about the environment. I know I can sing well and I can't wait to share my talent with the world.

### 5. Describe your dream wedding.

Our wedding will happen but we might not post photos anywhere. It will be a very intimate affair with people I love and also, it will be an experience. My husband and I are an experience. We will have the best moments during our wedding. We will dance and entertain our guests. Close friends and family who stood by us when we were harshly discussed online will be given first priority. My engagement happened during my son's first birthday in July 2022. I had planned for the event only to be surprised. My best part was Nviri singing and when I saw him, I knew Willis was going to propose because Mae Wendi is our song.





The Hustler

# It is raining cats and dogs in hustler-land

BY MIKE SAFARA

As it turned out, my first cousin Safari became a statistic in this season of terrible floods in the country – one of 72 people marked ‘missing’ (better than being marked ‘dead.’) And because time and tide wait for no man, I did not even have the time to properly mourn my beloved hustling, missing *cuzo*, even as the news that he had been swept away in the floods threw the wider family into a tail-spin.

“We bury our mother, then our brother drowned, Safari,” his half-sister moaned.

“We don’t know that for sure, sis,” I said, trying to keep her hopeful. “They haven’t found his... Mazda.” (I had been about to say ‘his body’ but I stopped myself.)

But it wasn’t his car anymore. It belonged to the Ports wheeler-dealer, Mr Mutua.

“I am very sorry to hear about Safari,” Mark Mutua had called me the day after the accident, myself having been airlifted to Nairobi by Medi-Vac from my flooded crib to higher land refuge that cold Tuesday evening, a trip I barely remember.

“But hun-till we recover the motor vehicle, in n-good condition, hi need haf the money back...”

For a second, I was tempted to tell Mutua the duffel bag with the Sh1 million had been swept away. But now the guilt of having saved the money bag at the back instead of helping my cousin (I had really believed he would get out of the car too in one piece) was eating away at my soul, with the scene re-playing itself in my dreams at night.

This was a chance to show myself I had not completely sold my soul to Mammon.

“Where should I drop off the half *milli*, Mr Mutua?”

“Hi I’m still in Mombasa,” he said. “Meet my wife at Mayas Hinn and give hit to her.”

Which is what I did – Mrs Mutua being one of those round jovial people, in her mid-50s, with the glowing skin that comes with good eating and living.

The remaining half a million went to Mr Li, owner of the Gang Dong Mall, who I met at Galleria Mall.

“I likey to see how my competition it is doing,” he said, waving vague chopsticks

in the air to circumference the vogue mall, a far more elegant space than his nuts-and-bolts operation, but which had incredibly affordable goods.

After I had given my tale of woe about why I now only had half the dough for my investment in ‘Safara Mascara,’ the mall mandarin shook his head sorrowfully.

“I likey you Mai-Korr,” he said. “But it is either a million shilling or nothing, met?”

“Please Mr Li,” I begged. “It was an Act of God that took that Mazda. Please?”

Picking up the duffel bag reluctantly, the multi-millionaire sighed: “Rook,” he said. “I give you until Friday, May 31st, cross of business, to get the other 500 thousand. Best deal!” Where on earth was I going to get 500K in three weeks?

What an insane week it has been, I thought on Friday evening, as I prepared to go for the Top 40 Under 40 Female Entrepreneurs Recognition Awards (FEAR 40), taking place at the Delta on Waiyaki Way.

No, I hadn’t had a sex change and become ‘Michela’ in two days!

I was going as the guest of one Desiree Simaloi, my ex-colleague (head of marketing in the crappy manure company we’d both worked for. Long before I got laid off last year, Simaloi had seen the light during Covid-19 when she accidentally entered digital marketing, saw its potential, and quit to start ‘Desiree Digital Simulations’ PR firm.

Talking up her brand on a TV show she run, she was in three short years already a nominee for FEAR 40.

“And still only in her late-30s,” I thought,



admiringly and enviously, of a colleague I had always only flirted with in the office, but stayed ‘FB’ friends with.

So that her asking me to be her ‘male escort’ to these awards, first on FB, then through WhatsApp call, had come as a surprise.

“So no man will have you, Sweet Simaloi?” I teased, as I slipped next to her reserved table at the Delta Hotel in Westlands, in a room full of her fellow nominees, a 200-strong throng, and entertained by a musician called Tree.

“Ha ha,” she laughed, and she still looked good, with those deep eyes, long nose and jaw, her lithe figure in a red dress that showed small cleavage and high heels.

Desiree Simaloi was knocking back the Amarulas, and her eyes were a bit glazed. “Isn’t it too early to celebrate?” I teased.

“To be honest, Mike,” she replied. “I am a nervous wreck. I need this win, badly.”

That, I could sympathise with – except that in her finalist category with four other women – Simaloi didn’t win. And the open devastation showed on her handsome face.

“Let’s go celebrate,” I said, although I hadn’t managed to have more than the hot starter soup. Thinking of where to get 500K in 20 days is bad for the appetite, let me tell you, Maina!

Thinking of where to get 500K in 20 days is bad for the appetite, let me tell you, Maina!

Mike Safara



That night at a Westie bar popular with expats, and with Simaloi picking the bill, we took ‘drowning our sorrow’ metaphor to a whole new level, knocking back tons of tots of all sorts of shots like hot sods.

At about 6am on Saturday, Desiree slurred. “I took the tab, you get the AirBnB.”

We caught an App Cab to my place, Lean Wood Apartments somewhere in Waithaka, canoodling in the back seat with Desiree, my phone charging in front with some bad tempered driver called Casper Ndugu.

“I need to call that Casper,” I gasped, as we got into my flat (couldn’t afford AirBnB, ironic, when I had owned one in January if you remember the story).

“You need to grasp her,” Simaloi said, “take care of the desire of Desiree, nah io Machuma.”

“Is that one of your ads?”

And the next thing, clothes were getting ripped off, people were naked in bed doing ‘bad manners,’ then passed out cold in the aftermath of heated passions.

“Daddy is with a dead woman in the bed,” Neo’s voice was faraway in my dream.

I woke up with those flashing lights of hangover arousals. My eyes adjusted to light. Was that Laura, Neo’s mother, stand-

ing at the bedroom door or a dream?

Then the hangover hallucination spoke: “I heard you lost your cousin in a flood and decided to surprise you at home with Neo to commiserate, Safari...”

Now I was wide awake, as Laura spoke on, bitterly: “But I see you have good shoulders to cry on. Don’t bother to try and contact me or see my son, Neo. Otherwise, I will go to court and report that you covart with prostitutes in your flat, not conducive for a six-year-old boy’s upbringing. Goodbye forever, Mike!”

“She’s not a slut,” I whispered.

Long after Desiree Simaloi had left after lunch with a “see you soon” she didn’t mean, as I watched TV blindly, there came a WhatsApp from Laura, Neo’s mum.

It was a very clear snap of a naked me, and nude Desiree passed out beside me.

I pictured it on the front page of the tabloid ‘My City,’ the way they had of a governor Obadiah Panyarut with a side-chick this week.

“She’s still a hoe,” Laura had typed. “Get a child with her. Coz you’ll never see Neo.” I looked at the photo again.

Neo had been right – in her passed out state, on camera, Simaloi did look dead.

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Movie



DEAD BOY DETECTIVES

Where: Netflix  
Genre: Comedy, Drama

*Dead Boy Detectives* is a delightful foray into the supernatural, a series that masterfully blends the whimsy of youth with the eerie charm of the afterlife. The show, a spinoff from Neil Gaiman’s *The Sandman*, introduces us to Edwin and Charles, two ghostly teenagers who refuse to let death dampen their detective spirits.

The series shines with its clever writing and the endearing performances of George Rexstrew and Jayden Revri. As Edwin and

Charles, they bring a refreshing mix of earnestness and mischief to the screen. Their camaraderie is the heartbeat of the show, providing both comic relief and emotional depth.

Set in a world where the paranormal is the norm, the show thrives on its unique premise. The dead boys’ adventures are a blend of mystery and fantasy, with each episode unraveling a new case in their quest to help troubled souls. The narrative is tight, the pacing brisk, and the atmosphere, a perfect cocktail of spooky and silly.

The supporting cast adds col-

our to this spectral world, with characters that are as quirky as they are captivating. The series doesn’t shy away from exploring themes of friendship, loss, and the search for purpose, all while maintaining a light-hearted tone that is both engaging and uplifting.

In essence, *Dead Boy Detectives* is a triumph of storytelling. It’s a series that invites viewers to embrace the oddities of life and the afterlife. With its charming leads, imaginative plot, and a dash of heart, it’s a show that proves even in death, adventure awaits.

By Michael Ochieng



# A case for sexual freedom

John Kariuki Kinyanjui is an IT expert based in Nairobi. PHOTO/POOL



In a world obsessed with fast cash, fast food and fast sex, waiting until marriage seems to be going out of fashion

Choosing to stay a virgin in this age perplexes and sometimes even bothers some people

BY ANGELINE OCHIENG AND GEORGE ODIWUOR

A few years ago, the value placed on virginity by society, especially on young women, was huge. Those who were not virgins as brides were pariahs. But as the world becomes liberal, so does our culture.

Few find joy in waiting. The average age of sex debut in Kenya now starts from 16, according to the latest Kenya Demographic and Health Survey report, with marriage starting at 21 years. Younger generations are now talking more openly about sex, be it with their peers or oversharing on social media. Late starters are ridiculed.

MyNetwork spoke to four young adults on their take on the value of

virginity in modern society.

**NUSYBAHNYASORO, 26  
PROFFICER, HOMABAY**

As a Muslim, I believe we should value virginity just the way our grandparents and great-grandparents did.

It was such an honour for a woman to keep herself until marriage. From a young age, I was taught the importance of staying pure until marriage and the benefits, which include earning a partner's respect. I also believe that a couple is more likely to maintain a peaceful marriage if they know that their relationship started when they were virgins. They get to enjoy a special, memorable moment. It will be easier for them to remain faithful to each other. Young Muslims are always told not to engage in haram re-

lationships, even if there is pressure to do so.

A couple was expected to lie on white bedding the night after the wedding. This was used to test for virginity.

However, things have changed. The excitement and anticipation that came whenever a woman got married, with in-laws waiting by the door to pick up the bedsheets the next morning after the honeymoon night to confirm that she was a virgin, is slowly fading away.

Currently, this practice is only upheld by old people. They seem to be the only ones who believe that one should remain a virgin until marriage. I am not sure if we should blame the elders for not teaching their children the importance of virginity or blame the younger generations for failing to uphold their parents' values and principles.

Nowadays, adults who are virgins are considered immature or too conservative by their peers. This is especially the case for younger men. Some of them are eager to sleep with as many women as possible. There is a

**Snighter  
Achieng is a  
waitress at  
Key Ground  
Restaurant in  
Homabay town.**  
PHOTO/  
GEORGE  
ODIWUOR

lot of pressure on young women to lose their virginity too.

I have also heard men say that they would never marry a virgin because they have no 'experience'.

Some women brag on social media, boldly, about having had several men and flaunting the numbers as if it were an achievement. This peer pressure makes some feel left out, a sad reality.

As a young woman, I still hold my virginity in very high regard, perhaps because of my upbringing. I am incredibly conscious of the risk of sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

Homa Bay is one of the counties leading in HIV/Aids infections and teen pregnancies, and I believe that some of the cases can be prevented through abstinence.

I would like to advise younger people to abstain until marriage. There is no honour in having an early sexual debut.

It only leads to guilt and remember, once you engage in sexual activities, stopping might not be easy.

Our elders should also place more

emphasis on cultural teachings like the Madrassa classes for Muslims.

**Osewe Daniel, 26  
Clinical Officer, Kisumu**

Abstinence can be challenging, but it is a choice one should make. Self-respect, sexual purity, and adhering to spiritual and cultural beliefs can greatly encourage youth to embrace abstinence.

However, I do not believe that virginity should be the primary reason for considering or rejecting a potential partner.

One of the things that will help encourage abstinence is for parents to have honest discussions about sexuality with their children.

This will uphold the values of purity, self-control, and the sanctity of the marital bond.

To date, people who manage to keep themselves until marriage are respected.

Abstinence is a sign of self-discipline and self-respect. The delayed gratification sets the stage for a more meaningful and fulfilling relationship.

But we all know that not everyone



# om, virginity and chastity



Osewe Daniel is a clinical officer and fashion designer in Kisumu. PHOTO: POOL



values virginity, and this is a sad truth.

The behaviour change has been influenced by societal influences, including exposure to media and a lack of comprehensive sex education from parents and other trusted sources.

This has come with harsh consequences. The results of early sexual acts include loss of self-respect, the risk of early pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases.

However, all is not lost. I believe that providing age-appropriate sex education to children is crucial. We need to let children know from an early age that their sexuality is important and that irresponsible choices could lead to diseases and even death.

This should be accompanied by open and honest discussions about the long-term benefits of abstinence.

**JOHN KARIUKI KINYANJUI, 27  
IT EXPERT, NAIROBI**

I think our parents are the last generation to place a high value on sexual purity, especially for women. My generation views sex differently: as a way

of spending free time.

My take is that virginity is not necessarily a measure of a happy marriage. I would prefer to connect intimately with my potential spouse before marriage.

I know that this was shunned and unheard of in the past, especially in my culture, where there are lots of taboos about premarital sex.

Intimacy was sacred. A virgin would attract a hefty bride price and bring honour to her home. Those who did not preserve their purity were seen as an embarrassment, and at times the family would disown them.

This went a long way in discouraging both boys and girls from premarital sex. There were very few cases of single parenthood or children born out of wedlock.

Currently, peer pressure, lack of adequate parental guidance, early and unlimited exposure to adult content and lack of timely sex education have made it hard for young people to practice abstinence.

This has led to an increase in cases

of abortion, STIs, and single parenthood. You gain a lot by delaying your sexual life. Look at a growing generation of bitter young women who have been left to take care of their children single-handedly.

If we are not careful, our world will soon be full of broken relationships with confused children who do not even understand what is going on.

It is high time we started promoting comprehensive sex education. For me, I will engage my children in sex education as early as possible because I believe that an educated mind makes better decisions.

Consider the potential consequences of your actions and prioritise your physical and emotional well-being. Talk openly with trusted adults.

**Snigter Achieng, 25  
Waitress, Homabay**

I blame society for watering down the value of virginity. People around us expect women to remain virgins until marriage, but men are not judged by the same standards.

**Nusybah Nyasoro is a public relations officer at the Department of Health in Homabay County.**

PHOTO: GEORGE ODIWUOR

If a man decides to sow wild oats, it is considered normal. That is where we all got it wrong. In a world where irresponsible sexual activities can cause deadly diseases, one needs to abstain until marriage.

I also believe that whoever can abstain from sexual activities until marriage, whether male or female, automatically earns respect.

As a woman, you earn so much respect and confidence, not just for yourself but also for your family. They will be revered for raising you well. The best part of getting married as a virgin is that even your husband will speak highly of you.

We are, however, in an era where young people are not interested in keeping their virginity.

Celibacy is unusual. Young people are looking for fun, and I dare say that is the reason they keep moving from one relationship to the next.

Peer pressure and easy access to mobile phones and the internet are other reasons for the moral decay of society.

Parents often give their children

phones but pay little or no attention to how the gadget is used, yet social media has no filters and does not care whether one is a child or an adult. Let us also not forget that young people are very curious and try out what they see.

Another major gap is the lack of sex education. Many adults are unwilling to tell the youth what they need to know and instead tell them what they want to hear. When they make mistakes, we start blaming them.

The result is that so many young adults are living with guilt. There are lots of broken relationships and homes.

To get back on track, sexual education is key. I attended many sexual education classes organised by a non-government organisation back in school. We were taught about the different types of STIs and how to avoid contracting them. The lessons helped me. I knew where to draw the line. I was able to say "no" whenever I needed to.

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**Personality:** Kennedy Wangari is a self-published author of two books

# The gamble that propelled young author to success despite many odds



BY PAUL KARIUKI

For motivational speaker and self-published author Kennedy Wangari, 21, growing up through hardship shaped his character quite early. Bathing with soap was a luxury in his childhood, but he drew invaluable life lessons from such experiences. So far, he has given motivational talks in over 190 learning institutions across the country and uses the venues to sell his books to students and teachers.

The writing bug hit him while he was still a high school student, and he chose to focus on writing motivational books.

"I deliberately chose this genre since there are many authors who are doing literature works like fiction. While they (fiction writers) contribute to a rich literary heritage, less focus is given to motivational writing in Kenya where the most popular motivational writers are foreigners," he says.

He adds that there are few influential motivational speakers in the country who inspire and give hope to Kenyans. "I combine motivational writing and public speaking for different audiences."

What inspired Kennedy to start writing are the lessons he learnt while growing up. "I am the firstborn in a family of three. I was raised by a single mother and we faced numerous challenges in my childhood. At one point my mother was advised

to throw me in the forest while I was still young but she went against the counsel of her friends and brought us up single handedly," he recalls.

He was at home more than in school owing to lack of school fees, but managed to finish high school. He wrote his first book when he was eighteen years old, and has so far authored two titles namely *Ignite Your Determination* and *Grade Changer: From D to A Student*.

"When you look at the lives of young people, you will realise that most of them lack a guide and that's what my books aim to do," he says.

For a first-time author, getting published by established publishing houses can be hard. After struggling with this for a while, he chose to go the self-publishing route.

"The first step before publishing is to research on the topic and write

**I can proudly say the self-publishing gamble has really paid off,**

Kennedy Wangari



Kennedy Wangari has sold more than 1,700 copies of his two books titled *Ignite Your Determination* and *Grade Changer*. PHOTO: POOL

ing the first draft. Then comes the editing stage where I give the manuscript to someone to go through it and correct any grammatical mistakes. My editor then proofreads it with the help of my mentor, then the copyright process follows before the work can be approved. After that, I can start printing the books," he says.

Being his own publisher means he is also the sole marketer of his books. He offers speaking engagements to different institutions like churches, schools and in the corporate world and afterwards, he sells his books in the venues.

"I have so far sold more than 1,700 copies this way and through other ways such as social media marketing. I can say the self-publishing gamble has really paid off," he notes.

When he began as a motivational speaker, things were tough on him as he had not fully understood the industry. Convincing school heads to buy his books and give him a platform to market himself was also a tall order, but it worked. He began leaving them with a copy of his first authored book for their appraisal and if they were satisfied, they would call him for a speaking engagement with students.

"Some would go ahead and refer me to other schools and that's how the journey to motivational speaking began. So far, I have done speaking engagements in over 190 different learning institutions, and I have taken the marketing a notch higher by posting videos of past speaking sessions on social media. I also receive bookings from this."

Like any job, writing has its challenges. It is not a fixed business but a moving one. So, on busy days, Kennedy can travel hundreds of kilometres, which can be tiresome and costly.

On several occasions he has arrived late to a function due to bad traffic jam or his vehicle broke down, but the event organisers would say he has not delivered to their satisfaction. In cases like these, he often has to forfeit his pay.

"During the pandemic, because of the lockdown, scheduled speaking engagements were cancelled at the last minute so the reprints of the books I intended to sell became dead stock at a time I was struggling to make ends meet."

The amounts Kennedy charges vary depending on the session and the institutions in question, but it usually boils down to how well he can negotiate. An hourly session can cost between Sh5,000 and Sh10,000.

He is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in counselling psychology and he uses part of the profits he makes from selling books to pay his tuition fees.

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## Jobs

# Of weird staff and strange behaviours

BY PAUL KARIUKI

There are few things about employees' characters that shock astute employers. But, believe it or not, just like some employers are toxic, there is a class of employees that is simply difficult to handle. They include:

### The superstitious type

An employer recently recounted seeing a staff member engaging in a bizarre activity. This employee would be the first to report every morning, which was understandable given his position. But what was shocking is the way he would enter his office. On opening the door, he would make an anticlockwise turn and enter back first, like a warthog to its lair. There would be hand gestures preceding the strange procession. It took time for the employer to discover the employee was into dark arts and the ritualistic entrance was his way of protecting his job.

### Those who run parallel enterprises

The business seems to be running well, but why is the bottom margin always so low? You wonder. Your employee could be using your business to facilitate his own enterprise. One investor in the liquor business found out that his employee used to report to work with his own carton of drinks, which he would sell throughout the day. He would then sell a few bottles off the shelf to blind the employer.

### Costly beef

You may have two employees who can't stand one another, and regularly find new ways of undermining each other. An employer recalls an incident where an employee sneaked into his office when he was out, took the phone that was charging and dropped it into the bag of his rival. When he returned to his office, he raised alarm over the missing phone, and when a search was ordered, it was recovered in the bag of the equally shocked employee. He was fired on the spot. Fortunately, the company had surveillance cameras and upon review, the truth came out.

The sacked employee sued, and an out of court settlement saw the company not only compensating the injured party but lose two employees when the innocent one refused reinstatement.

### Playing self from till

Not everyone can afford an emergency, or has money set aside to address such a situation. When emergencies occur, a devious employee manning the till may decide to pay themselves in advance. Worse, an employee who feels like he is being underpaid can decide to empty the entire till and then vanish into thin air.

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# THE TREND

WITH AMINA ABDI RABAR

# FRIDAYS

8PM & 10PM

**GOtv**  
entertaining africa  
Channel 91

**DSBv**  
Feel every moment  
Channel 271

**StarTimes**  
Channel 106

**zuku**  
Channel 13

**SIGnet**  
a world of possibilities  
Available on Signet

**ADN**  
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