

*It has mostly been stated that some tribes have a warlike streak. Their culture encourages their young to be able to act in defence and if need be, in attack.*

*At independence such tribes were still in the political fringes of modern Kenya but had played quite some roles in early periods of colonial Kenya, mostly in matters to do with land and negotiations to engage warriors to fight against communities which were non-collaborative. To this end names like Ole Lenana and Koitalel arap Samoei come to mind.*

*These tribes have since been empowered but their cultural warlike behaviour is probably innate. It does not take much effort to excite their youth to violence for any flimsy reason. They are trained early in use of weapons and for this they are not short of arsenals inherited from their parents, grandparents and greatgrandparents.*

*The events which occurred on Friday April fools Day is just the epitomization and manifestation of how prepared these tribes are when they consider intrusion, military or political into their territories. It symbolises how far and what extent of risk they can take in "defence" of their terrain. Hardly surprising.*

*On the flip side, there have been pockets of violence such as was witnessed when political novice, Jimmy Wanjigi visited Migori county a couple of months back. He had a similar experience in quick succession when he visited Homa bay county. And other forms of political violence have been witnessed in other functions.*

*What does all this say? We are a nation that has a "cosmetic" peace which morphes and metastasizes into violence every election season. And not to talk of the perennial cattle rustling in regions whose culture encourages this practice as part of tradition.*

*The Friday incident is the curtain raiser for a season of political zoning and vengeful acts which if not checked will only simmer tensions which will soon boil into full blown violence come 9th August and the period after.*

*By J.H.Oduol.*