



Compte rendu d'entretien
Nairobi – Kenya

PORTRAIT : VICTOR MUTINDA

Date de l'entretien : Juin 09

I am Victor Mutinda, I am 38 years old I do businesses in Kitui town, I sell products like Ugali, bread,. I have been doing this job for ten years.

How did you come to have this job?

I got a little amount of money and I started with a kiosk

Can you tell us something about your childhood and your family?

I was born in Kitui town I have six sisters and two brothers. My parents are farmers.

What kind of jobs your brothers and your sisters do?

Two of my sisters are teachers, one of my brothers is a businessman, the others are doing studies.

Can you tell us something about your education? Did you go to university or not?

I arrived till form four.

The increasing construction of supermarkets in Kitui town is affecting your business or not?

Yes, it is affecting my activity a lot. The most part of the people prefer buying their stuffs at the supermarket rather than here.

When you start your activity the situation was not like now? There were no supermarkets?

There were not big supermarkets, there were only small supermarkets around.

Can you tell us something about your family?

I have a family: I have one wife and five children. All of them are daughters. I would like a son so he could continue my activity. All my daughters go already to school. Two are in standard eight, one is in standard four and two are in standard one.

Do you think that a middle class exists in Kenya? How would you place yourself in the Kenyan society?

I consider myself as a member of the middle class. I am not poor and I am not very rich so I think that I am a member of the middle class.

What a rich people has that you don't have?



Someone rich has a big business and mine for example is not so big. A rich also have lots of lands and a big car.

How do you earn par month?

Around 30000/ 40000 Kenyan Schillings. But with this money I have to pay also the rent and the employers.

How much is monthly the rent of your business?

The rent is 10000 so it's about 1/3 of the sales.

Do you have a car?

No, I don't.

From your point of you, who is poor? In your opinion poor are people who cannot get what?

Poor people don't have any kind of business.

Does your wife work or do you take in charge alone all your family?

My wife works with me at the shop.

How many people do you support economically?

I have to take charge also of my extended family. I support economically my family, my parents and some of my sisters. But it is not a problem for me to take care of all those people. I manage to do it.

Do the post election events and the actual economic recession affect your life? Do you see any changes or everything is like it used to be before?

Yes, the 2007 post election events affected my business because the most of the products we sell here come from the Rift Valley.

And what about the economic recession? Your life is the same than five years ago?

Yes, my life is almost the same than five years ago. Nothing has changed from five years ago.

What do you do in your spare time?

Actually I am here, in my shop the most part of the time. Even on weekends. What I do when I close my shop is just to go home and watch TV, watch the news.

Do you think that you work a lot? I ask you this question because somebody told me that in his opinion a middle class person is someone who is used working all the time? Do you agreed with this quote?



Yes, I agreed with this quote. Because is true, that we, the middle class people, work a lot. And even if we make money we don't have the time to spend them. Because I know that if I work less I earn less and I can't permit that.

Are you involved in politics?

No, because I don't have the time. My business takes a lot of time and politics for me is a waste of time.

Does someone of your brothers/sisters live abroad?

No, everybody live here in Kenya, the most part of them also arrive till form four as me.

What do you hope for your future?

I just want to continue my activity and to educate my children..