

## **Abstracts/blurbs for Mark Chetambe's publications**

### **The village Fool and other Stories (KLB)**

This is an anthology of 14 short stories. The stories revisit the dichotomies of rural-urban space, male-female politics, young-old debates and leader-subject conflicts. Most of the stories adopt a satirical look at the 21<sup>st</sup> Century issues that the average African person has to deal with, against the backdrop of globalization and digitization. Inevitably, older values must cede ground to new realities, even though important lessons still echo from the past.

### **Escape from Soti City (Sentia Publishers)**

This is the story of Jack Maina and his escape from Soti, the city of dirt and disease. Jack Maina not only escapes the dirty Soti environment, but also its moral and intellectual dirt. The pollution and disease that characterizes many African cities is shown to be the result of human neglect rather than fate.

### **Guide for Betrayal in the City (Moran Publishers)**

This guidebook seeks to make the reading and understanding of Francis Imbuga's *Betrayal in the City* an easy and enjoyable undertaking for both teachers and students. In a systematic and student friendly way, the book discusses the author and his works, the setting, the title, the characters, themes and elements of style in their relatedness. Exercises and exciting learning activities such as debates are provided in the book to help the learner to interact with the play in a more intimate manner.

### **Female Characters in the Contemporary Kenyan Oral Narrative (Lambert Publishers)**

The contemporary oral narrative is an evolving literary genre in Kenya. It has become increasingly popular with the Kenyan audience, especially after it was introduced in the Kenya School' and Colleges' Drama Festival. T.V and radio stations have embraced it as part of their entertainment menu. This book delves into gender representations in the oral narrative in Kenya. Focusing on six oral narrative texts performed in the drama festival by six different institutions in Kenya, the author examines the images and roles that female characters are cast in,

in these contemporary tales. The style that the narratives employ in presenting the female person is also analyzed. Making it clear that the contemporary oral narrative differs from the traditional narrative in terms of composition and performance, the author observes that the contemporary tale needs to be reconstructed so that it can project a more favourable image of the female gender.

#### Let the Children Speak (Arkedia Publishers)

This is a little book that seeks to help young people to exist in a peaceful and harmonious environment. From simple things like how to greet people to complex ones like how to relate with those who are different from us, the booklet demonstrates in practical ways how 21<sup>st</sup> century Kenyan children can live at peace with themselves and their immediate social environments.