

CAPE TIMES
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Afro-centric

MOSIBUDI Mangena's column, "Black self-hatred must stop right hair" (Cape Times, November 9) refers. I am reminded of Ugandan Okot p'Bitek's epic, satirical poem, Song of Lawino (1956) , where the traditional wife Lawino mocks her "modern" co-wife, Clementine:

I am proud of the hair
With which I was born...
When (Clementine) ...
Returns from cooking her hair
She resembles
A chicken
That has fallen into a pond ...
(Clementine's hair) is
Dying like
Banana leaves on a hot and windless
afternoon ...
I have no wish to
Look like a white woman ...
No leopard
Would change into a hyena...
The long-necked and graceful giraffe
Cannot become a monkey.

DAVID BROKENSHA
FISH HOEK