

Tensions and Reversals in Democratic Transitions

The Kenya 2007 General Elections

Edited by | **KARUTI KANYINGA
DUNCAN OKELLO**

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Karuti Kanyinga and Duncan Okello

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Table of Contents

List of Tables and Figures	vii
Preface	xii
Profile of Contributors	xv
Abbreviations and Acronyms	xix

Chapter 1: Contradictions of Transition to Democracy in Fragmented Societies: The Kenya 2007 General Elections in Perspective	1
<i>Karuti Kanyinga, Duncan Okello and Akoko Akech</i>	

PART I: POLITICAL PARTIES, IDENTITIES, AND ELECTIONS

Chapter 2: Party Mobilization and Membership: Old and New Identities in Kenyan Politics	31
<i>Adams Oloo</i>	
Chapter 3: Voting Without Institutionalized Political Parties: Primaries, Manifestos, and the 2007 General Elections in Kenya	61
<i>Fredrick O. Wanyama</i>	
Chapter 4: Pastors or Bastards?: The Dynamics of Religion and Politics in the 2007 General Elections in Kenya	101
<i>Babere Kerata Chacha</i>	

PART II: THE GEOPOLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT AND ELECTIONS IN KENYA

Chapter 5: The Geography of Voting in Kenya: An Analysis of the 2007 Presidential, Parliamentary and Civic Voting Patterns	139
<i>Peter Ngau and Musyimi Mbathi</i>	
Chapter 6: Local Level Politics: The 2007 Parliamentary Elections in Kenya	175
<i>Geoffrey R. Njeru</i>	

PART III: SOFT POWER IN ELECTORAL POLITICS

Chapter 7: 'Soft Power', Popular Culture and the 2007 Elections	217
<i>Mbugua wa-Mungai</i>	
Chapter 8: The Dynamics and Politics of Media in Kenya: The Role and Impact of Mainstream Media in the 2007 General Elections	271
<i>Kwamchetsi Makokha</i>	

PART IV: THE POLITICS OF NUMBERS

Chapter 9: History, Politics and Science of Opinion Polls in Kenya 311
Odera Kiage and Kwame Owino

Chapter 10: Was it Rigged? A Forensic Analysis of Vote Returns in
 Kenya's 2007 Elections 373
Karuti Kanyinga, James D. Long, and David Ndi

PART V: GOVERNANCE REFORMS AND MONEY IN POLITICS

Chapter 11: The Unfinished Reform Agenda and the 2007
 General Elections in Kenya 415
Tom Kagwe

Chapter 12: Money in Politics: Financing of the Kenya 2007
 General Elections 459
Kennedy Masime and Charles Anderson Otieno

PART VI: THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF VIOLENCE IN KENYA

Chapter 13: Undercurrents of Post-Election Violence in Kenya: Issues
 in the Long-Term Agenda 491
John O. Oucho

Chapter 14: Militarized Spaces and the Post-2007 Electoral Violence 533
Musambayi Katumanga

PART VII: GENDER AND THE 2007 ELECTIONS

Chapter 15: Institutional Framework for Gender Equality:
 A Scoreless Affirmative Action in the Kenya 2007 Elections 565
Winnie V. Mitullah

Chapter 16: (Re)turn of Women: Post-Moi's Kenya and Electoral Politics in
 Kalenjin Rift Valley 599
Akoko Akech

Chapter 17: Matriarchy Rises to Leadership Among Patriarchal Kalenjin:
 The Dynamics and Perspectives of the 2007 General Elections in Kenya 621
Susan Chebet-Choge

**PART VIII: THE CONSTITUTIONAL POLITICS OF KENYA'S POST-ELECTION
 MEDIATION PROCESS**

Chapter 18: Mediating Kenya's Post-Election Crises: The Politics and
 Limits of Power Sharing Agreement 653
Ben Sihanya and Duncan Okello

List of Tables, Figures and Appendices

Tables

Table 2.1: 2005 referendum results by province	39
Table 2.2: Main alliances in the 2007 elections	50
Table 2.3: Regional votes results	52
Table 5.1: Population and registered voters by province	151
Table 5.2: Political party representation in parliament after the 2007 general elections	153
Table 5.3: Representation in new districts	155
Table 5.4: Constituencies where parliamentary and civic seats are dominated by different parties	157
Table 5.5: Parliamentary representation by party	158
Table 5.6: Political party representation by setting (2007 general elections)	160
Table 5.7: Distribution of urban presidential votes by province	161
Table 5.8: Comparison between voter turnout and voter registration by age	163
Table 5.9: Women representation in parliament, 2002 and 2007	165
Table 5.10: Women representation at civic level, 2007	165
Table 6.1: Parliamentary voting preferences by party	181
Table 6.2: Status of CDF use and parliamentary election results in Kenya	189
Table 6.3: Self-described voting motivations, Kenya 2007	196
Table 6.4: Perceived salience of candidate's ethnicity in recent elections in Kenya	196
Table 8.1: Community radio frequency allocations for 2006/07	283
Table 8.2: Radio frequency allocations as at 2007	285
Table 8.3: National radio coverage (%) for political parties	291
Table 8.4: Proportion of coverage (%) for parties in the print media	292
Table 8.5: Coverage of presidential candidates' in the print media, December 2007	292
Table 8.6: Comparative thematic breakdown of media coverage in 2002 and 2007	299
Table 8.7: Coverage (%) of political parties on local language radio	303
Table 8.8: Rating trust levels of various media houses	304
Table 9.1: Prediction of presidential votes (NEMU, 1992)	319
Table 9.2: Summary of five polls conducted in 1992	321
Table 9.3: Strategic/Finnish poll results, August 1997	323
Table 9.4: IED poll results (%), November 1997	324
Table 9.5: IED poll results (%), December 1997	325
Table 9.6: PURT results 12-23 December 1997	326
Table 9.7: Strategic polls: Party preferences by province, October 2001	330
Table 9.8: Strategic polls: Party support (%) by province, December 2001	330
Table 9.9: Strategic polls: Presidential candidate's preferences by province	332

Table 9.10: Strategic polls: Party support by province, 2002 (%)	333
Table 9.11: Cross analysis of candidate preference (%) for presidency by province, April 2002 (Strategic polls)	335
Table 9.12: Electoral outcome of party preference (%) by province in 2002	341
Table 9.13: Strategic polls: Presidential vote (%) by province	342
Table 9.14: Strategic polls: Parliamentary party vote (%) by province	343
Table 9.15: Number of voters who reported voting for presidential candidates by constituency (IRI exit poll 2002)	344
Table 9.16: Comparison of the exit poll and official results of presidential elections in 2002 (ECK official results vs IRI exit poll 2002)	346
Table 9.17: ECK presidential election results 2002	347
Table 9.18: CIR/Afrobarometer results for party support by ethnic region	349
Table 9.19: Trend analysis of the Steadman 2005-2006 pre-election polls	349
Table 9.20: Pre-election polls 2007 in Kenya	355
Table 9.21: Results of last pre-elections polls in 2007	357
Table 9.22: Comparison of IRI exit poll and official results, 2007	358
Table 9.23: Official ECK results (ECK website)	358
Table 9.24: Distribution of votes by province in 2007 (ECK 2008)	361
Table 9.25: Reviewing discrepancies in exit and official results	362
Table 9.26: Exit poll and official results	362
Table 9.27: Direction of differences by candidate	363
Table 9.28: Differences that depressed Raila tally	363
Table 10.1: ECK and exit poll comparison of Odinga and Kibaki results (%)	382
Table 10.2: 2007 presidential election final ECK results	387
Table 10.3: 2007 problem constituencies identified by the ECK and/or ODM	389
Table 10.4: ECK results compared to KTN results	392
Table 10.5: 2002 presidential turnout	395
Table 10.6: 2007 presidential turnout	395
Table 10.7: 2002 presidential exceeds parliamentary turnout	401
Table 10.8: 2007 presidential exceeds parliamentary turnout	402
Table 10.9: 2007 parliamentary exceeds presidential turnout	402
Table 10.10: Differences allocated to candidate strongholds	405
Table 10.11: 2007 differences between civic and parliamentary turnout	406
Table 10.12: 2007 differences between civic and presidential turnout	406
Table 12.1: Estimated PNU coalition campaign expenditure pattern	468
Table 12.2: Estimated ODM campaign expenditure pattern	469
Table 12.3: Estimated ODM-K campaign expenditure pattern	470
Table 12.4: Estimated expenditure of a parliamentary candidate	471
Table 12.5: Estimated total collections by parties on nomination fees and party levies	472
Table 12.6: ODM-K fundraising initiatives and resources mobilized	473
Table 12.7: PNU fundraising initiatives and resources mobilized	473
Table 12.8: ODM Pentagon fundraising group initiatives and resources	473
Table 12.9: Breakdown of sources of candidate's income	474
Table 12.10: Profile of companies supporting main parties in the 2007 general elections	475
Table 12.11: Estimated costs to the taxpayers of misuse of state institutional resources	479

Table 13.1: Distribution of voter registration in Kenya by province, 2007	504
Table 13.2: Opinion polls for presidential candidates in Kenya elections, 2007	508
Table 13.3: Internal migration in Kenya by province, 1999	521
Table 17.1: Performance of Kalenjin women candidates in parliamentary elections	626
Table 17.2: Party and sub-tribe profiles of Kalenjin women parliamentarians since 1974	630
Table 17.3: Kalenjin women MPs since 1974 and their education profiles	644

Figures

Figure 4.1: Religious trends in Kenya	121
Figure 5.1: Electoral data structure (spatial and tabular)	151
Figure 5.2: Parliamentary representation by party	152
Figure 5.3: Representation at civic level based on majority seats at local authority	156
Figure 5.4: Parliamentary representation by party (Central, Eastern, Rift Valley, North Eastern, Nyanza and Western provinces combined models)	159
Figure 5.5: Distribution of votes by province (urban)	160
Figure 5.6: Constituencies setting (rural and urban classification)	161
Figure 5.7: Voter turnout during the 2007 general elections	162
Figure 5.8: Voter turnout by province	162
Figure 5.9: Registration of female parliamentary candidates	164
Figure 5.10: Parliamentary representation by gender	164
Figure 5.11: Geographical dimensions of well-being	169
Figure 5.12: Three-piece vote pattern	170
Figure 6.1: Qualities considered when electing a leader	180
Figure 6.2: Forms of electoral violence by province	185
Figure 6.3: Perceptions on impact of CDF on local level development	192
Figure 6.4: Incidence of overall poverty, 1992-2005/6 (%)	193
Figure 6.5: School enrolment after introduction of FPE (2004-2006)	193
Figure 6.6: Likely determinants of voter choice in the 2007 general elections	195
Figure 6.7: Likelihood of voting women candidates in the 2007 general elections	199
Figure 8.1: Television coverage of presidential candidates in the 2007 general elections	293

Figure 8.2: <i>Daily Nation's</i> coverage in cm ² and tonality for ODM and PNU/ ODM-K in January and February, 2008	294
Figure 8.3: Aggregate newspaper coverage for the 2002 and 2007 elections	299
Figure 9.1: Party support (%), December 2001	333
Figure 9.2: Support for presidential candidate, April 2002	334
Figure 9.3: First presidential preference among voters (Media Institute poll, August 2002)	336
Figure 9.4: Party support, September-October 2002	337
Figure 9.5: Most suitable presidential candidate for KANU, September-October poll	337
Figure 9.6: Most preferred presidential candidate (Media Institute, October 2002 poll)	338
Figure 9.7: Uhuru vs Kibaki presidential race (Media Institute, October 2002 poll)	339
Figure 9.8: Party vote in general elections (November IRI poll report)	340
Figure 9.9: Vote for president in 2002 elections (IRI exit poll)	341
Figure 9.10: 2002 exit poll and official presidential elections results	343
Figure 9.11: Trend analysis of 2002 pre-election and exit polls	347
Figure 9.12: Trend analysis of pre-election polls, July-October 2007	351
Figure 9.13: Raila's support by province, September-October 2007	353
Figure 9.14: Kibaki's support by province, September-October 2007	354
Figure 9.15: Trend analysis of the 2007 presidential polls race in Kenya	356
Figure 9.16: Exit and official presidential election results, 2007	359
Figure 10.1: Average presidential turnouts by province for 2007 and 2002 (with standard deviations)	396
Figure 10.2: Average presidential turnouts for Central, Nyanza and Eastern provinces for 2007 and 2002 (with standard deviations)	397
Figure 10.3: Comparison of presidential and parliamentary turnouts from 2002 and 2007	401
Figure 10.4: Distribution of turnout differences by candidate stronghold	404
Figure 12.1: Number of companies supporting main parties in the 2007 general elections	476
Figure 12.2: Corporate financing of parties in the 2007 elections	478
Figure 12.3: Trend in government institutional advertising	481
Figure 12.4: Monitored government institutional advertising during election year	481
Figure 12.5: Level of government institutional advertising between April and December 2007	482

Figure 13.1: Conceptual framework for analysing the determinants of
post-election violence 495

Figure 14.1: Escalation/de-escalation model 558

Appendix

Appendix 6.1: Uncollected CDF as of July 2007 206

Appendix 6.2: National poverty indices 212

Appendix 7.1: NARC's sms campaign 2002 247

Appendix 7.2: Cellphone text messages in thematic clusters and stylistic
categories, 2007 campaigns 250

Appendix 7.3: Rumour texts 264

Appendix 7.4: List of e-mail texts 266

This book is a product of much reflection on the gaps and gains in Kenya's democratic process. The book is inspired by the desire to record, archive, analyse, and interpret that sad but immensely significant occurrence in Kenya's political evolution: the 2007 General Elections and the violent social convulsions that followed; the deeply hidden social-political divisions the post-election violence brought to the fore; and the resultant constitutional and institutional architecture of governance it created – the Grand Coalition Government. The book also reflects on the progress that has been made and the threats inherent therein. It sits on the side of the debate that takes the view that the democratisation process will not necessarily be peaceful, neat, or uni-linear. It acknowledges that the balance sheet of Kenya's democratisation project demonstrates mixed result. Whereas in the period leading up to December 2007 the 'assets' side of the balance sheet was arguably healthier, the post-election violence exposed huge liabilities mostly hidden in the structural inefficiencies of Kenya.



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