

# The Nairobi Phenomena City in the Sun



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# Introduction

- Introduction
- History
- Politics
- Spatial Organisation
- Commerce
- Transport
- Entertainment
- Culture & Religion
- ETC

# Introduction



- "Nairobi" from Maasai phrase Enkare Nyirobi ("the place of cool waters,,")
- Popularly known as the "Green City in the Sun,,
- Founded in 1899, handed capital status from Mombasa in 1905
- Elevation of 1661m (5450 ft) above sea-level

# Population & Size

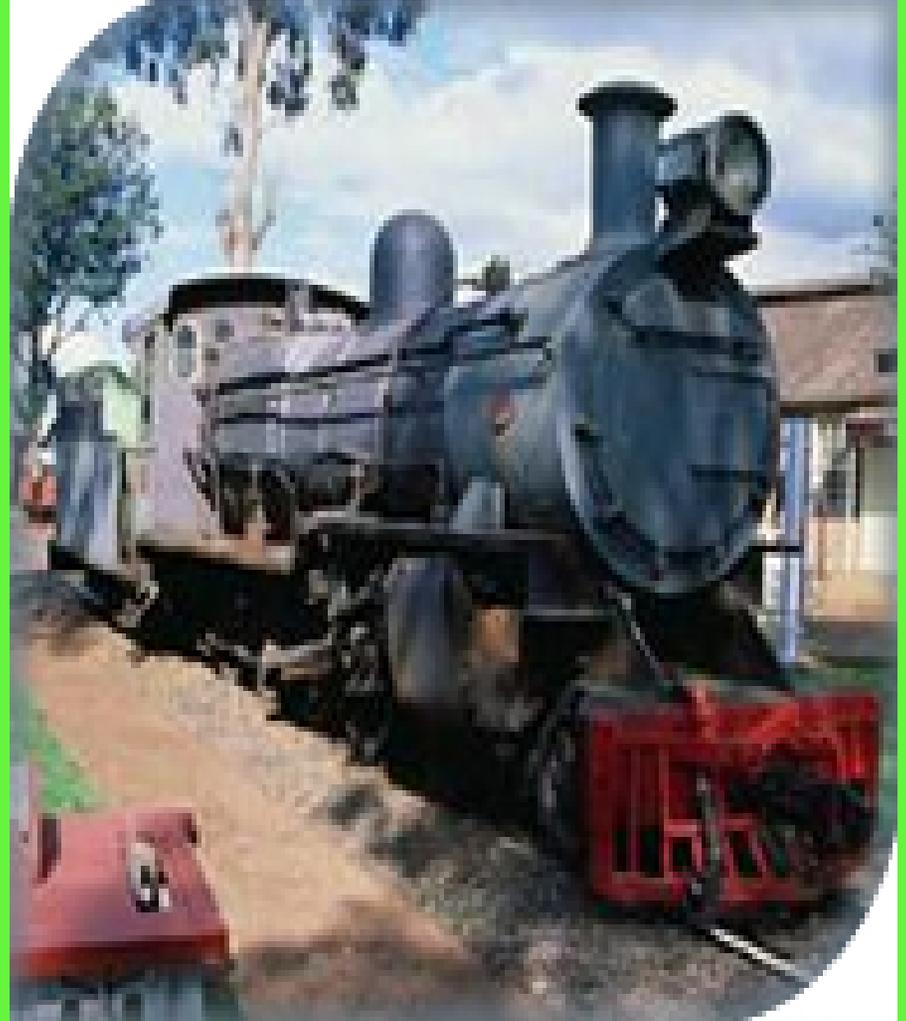


- 2,143,254 inhabitants (1999 Census, in the administrative area 684 km<sup>2</sup>)
- Est. night/day urban population: 3.05-4.73 million; most populous city in East Africa
- Government and commercial capital of Kenya
- Currently the 4th largest city in Africa (8million inhabitants by 2030)

# Farming and Trade

- Railway Built to pay for itself => consumed more money than in the initial plans
- White settlement in early 20<sup>th</sup> century led by Lord Delamere, a farmer from Cheshire, England
- They suffered a lot in their farming ventures
- Little was known of the kind of crops to grow
- By trial and error: established plantations of coffee, tea, sisal and pyrethrum
- Cattle rearing also proved to be a profitable => huge ranches
- Settler economy developed; allowed railway to reverse deficits

# Virgin Nairobi (Baby Steps)



# Economic Transition

- Till early 20th century, most Kenyans were subsistence farmers; growing only enough food for their needs
- Africans taxed & a cash economy was created
- Many Africans forced to give up peasant farming to search for cash incomes by working on the European plantations
- High demand for laborers in established plantations
- System designed to force Africans to work for Europeans
- 1920: The Colonial State began to confiscate African land (the natives)
- After completion of railway remaining Indians took up trade as major occupation

# Fight For Independence

- Displaced from their lands, the locals moved to Nairobi
- Formed associations to defend & organize repossession of land taken by white settlers
- Before World War II, white rulers cared less about the needs of the Kenyan people
- However, African troops returning from the war motivated and determined to get rid of the white settlers
- This gave birth to the now known „Mau Mau Rebellion“, which mainly involved the Kikuyu (ethnic group) and raged until 1956

# The Mau Mau

- Somewhat militant interest group focused on:
  - land scarcity
  - labor passes
  - regressive taxation and
  - inadequate educational and employment opportunities
- 1952: Declaration of State of Emergency
- War fought in the countryside and mountains surrounding Nairobi, but city sweeps to make mass arrests common
- Africans main target of sweeps => Kikuyus



# 1952: Turning Point

- Jomo Kenyatta arrested as Mau Mau leader, sentenced to 7 yrs of hard labor along with 5 others
- February: Princess Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip visited Kenya
- She went up that evening to the Tree Tops Hotel as Princess Elizabeth; came down Queen Elizabeth II of England in the morning



# Towards Independence

- 1954: The British enacted Operation "Anvil"
- Efforts made to rid Nairobi of Mau Mau supporters
- >30,000 arrests made, mostly Kikuyu
- 16,000: detained as active Mau Mau supporters
- 1956: Dedan Kimathi, recognized leader of the Mau Mau
  - Captured, tried, and found guilty
  - 1957: Executed by the British in a Nairobi prison



# Elections

- 1957: The first elections of African members of the Legislative Council held
- Eight African members elected
- Didn't cooperate with colonial admin; advocated free & direct elections without preference to any racial group
- 1958: Council boycotted council proceedings to protest against Lennox-Boyd Constitution=> emphasized multiracial Legislative Council
  - Also called for the release of Jomo Kenyatta
- 1960: Both the Kenya African National Union (KANU) and the Kenya African Democratic Union (KADU) formed

# Self Government

- February 1961: Primary & general elections held under the Lancaster House Constitution
- KANU won 19 seats and KADU 11; still detained, Jomo Kenyatta named as president of KANU
- 20th October 1961: Kenyatta released and assumed the presidency
- Between February and April 1962: Second Lancaster House Conference held in London
- A self-government "framework" constitution was agreed upon and drawn to include representation from both political parties
- 1st June 1963: Kenya achieved internal self-government with Kenyatta as the first prime minister

# For the „Just Government of Men“



# Independence, Kenyatta and land

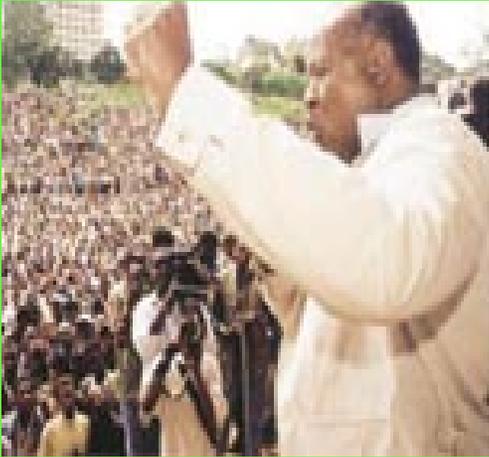
- 3rd Lancaster House Conference held to finalize the Independence Constitution; also declared Kenya a dominion
- Dec. 12, 1963: Kenya finally became an independent state
- Kenyatta presided over an almost steady economic growth but bundled up land management and distribution
- UK gov. gave Kenyatta gov. funds to buy back land from the white settlers & redistribute it back to the natives
- Land never redistributed; most of it was handed over to Kenyatta's close friends
- Dissidents detained(Odinga,Shikuku), killed(JM) or maimed
- 1978: President Kenyatta died; was succeeded by his vice president, Daniel Arap Moi

# Nyayo Era



- Moi became both the second (underdog) President and Head of KANU
- Sworn in for a 5 five-year term
- Rule usually characterised progress in the first four years
- 82 attempted Coup
- Detention(Raila, kihoro,matiba) without trial
- Dictatorship, corruption, land grabbing, human rights abuses, ethnic clashes, economic deterioration, and ineptitude set-in

# Clamour for Change



- Opposition formed Ford after scrapping of section 2A
- Ford split and Kibaki Formed DP after resigning
- First ethnic clashes 1992=repeated evry election
- Jan. 1993: Moi sworn-in for fourth five-year term in office (in an electon contested as rigged)
- July 7: Public rallies held to protest regime's human rights abuses & demand constitutional reforms
- First time in Kenya, police entered All Saints Cathedral in Nairobi beating demonstrators seeking sanctuary there

# Transition

- National Delegates Convention of March 18, 2002 KANU swallowed (Raila's)NDP
- Moi ensured that Uhuru Kenyatta was elected one of the four vice chairmen of the party
- Put him (Uhuru) in direct succession line three others and Raila Odinga (new) powerful Secretary General of the New KANU
- Disgruntled politicians found a common enemy
- Formed what was later to be called the Rainbow Alliance under a newly formed party called the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)

# Rebellion

- Raila quickly approached the Kibaki- Wamalwa- Charity Ngilu Alliance formed earlier to confront New KANU
- Raila knew KANU had no chance if Kikuyu voters had two Kikuyu candidates backed by two powerful forces
- Also if Kibaki led the new Alliance called NARC, it would kill Moi's project
- NARC formed and registered as a political party within weeks of the General Elections
  - Comprised of the who's who in Kenyan politics from every province in Kenya
- NARC- protest alliance bound to change the political equation in Kenya for a long time to come

# Referendum, Alignments & Disputed Elections

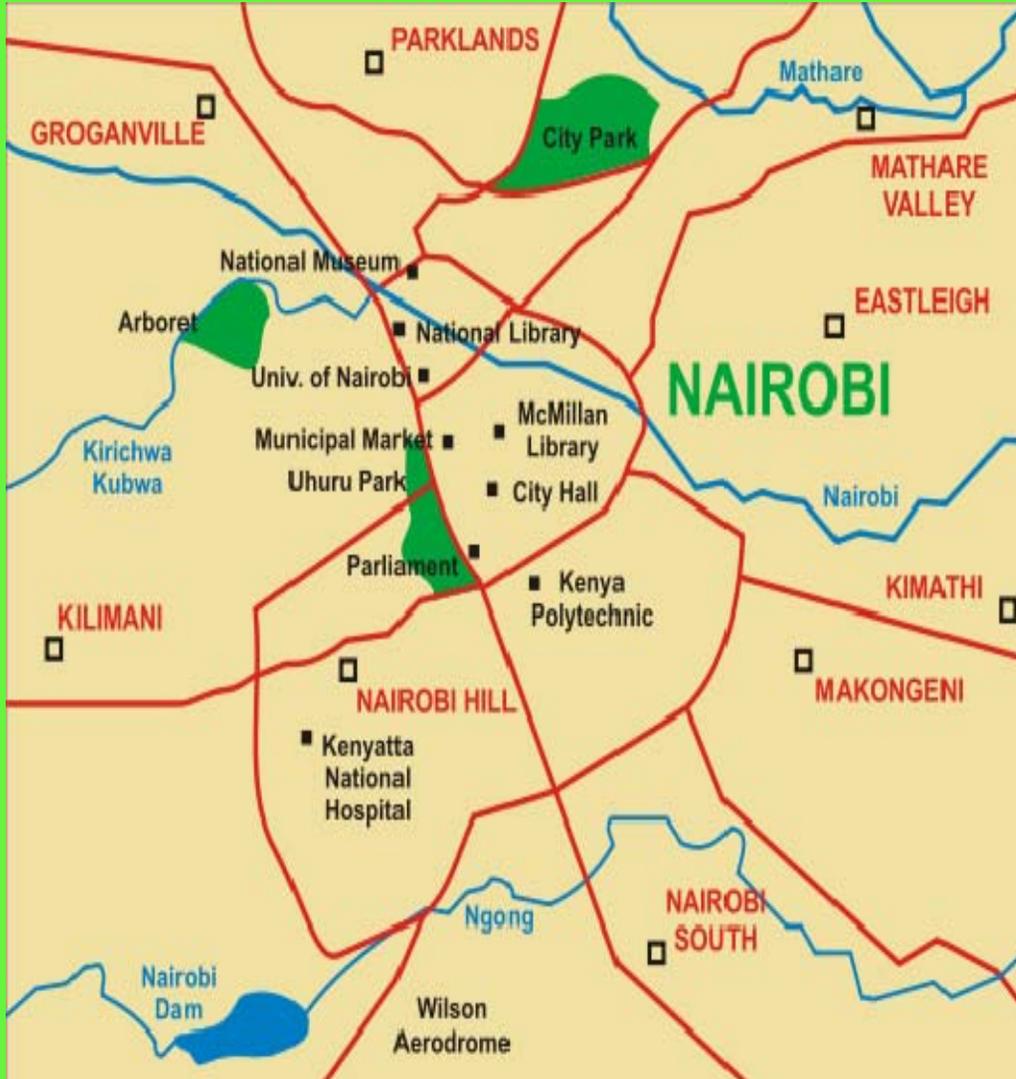


- Under Narc Kibaki became president
- Squandered a great opportunity
- Dispute over memo drafted before elections
- ODM referendum campaigns rehabilitated many politicians who would be languishing in political history
- Kibaki and his amorphous (later to become-Kanu)PNU voted „for“
- Raila and ODM „against“ the proposed constitution
- The elections that followed largely shaped by the alignments during the referendum campaigns

# **Spatial Organisation (of Nairobi)**

- Outbreak of plague and the burning down of the original compound=>totally rebuilt in the early 1900s
- 1907: was already a humming commercial center & replaced Mombasa as capital of the British East Africa
- 1919: declared a municipality; developed slowly, unplanned, and unexpectedly
- 1920-1950: Number. of white settlers in Nairobi rose from 9,000 to 80,000
- 1947: First (and only) master plan developed
- 1954: Nairobi granted city status

# Role of Race



- Prior to Independence Nairobi residential areas developed on racial grounds
- Reflected in both population densities and architecture

# Residential

- Europeans-Nairobi Hill spread westwards to Dagoretti & Lavington Estates completing the process in 1960s
  - Red-tiled bungalows in sizeable gardens characterise these areas
  - Replaced piecemeal by flats and maisonettes as the infilling process continues at speed
- Indians and Orientals: Parklands, Pangani and Eastleigh
  - Another zone favouring flat-topped buildings and small compounds
- Well supplied sports and community clubs as well as places of worship
- Nairobi South -Mombasa Road and convenient to the Industrial Area
- Nairobi West arose in the 1950's and have now extended to Plainsview & Mugoya

# Eastlands



- „African area“ lying about 1,600m and flanking the Industrial Area on the north
  - Generally known as Eastlands
- Progressive expansion eastwards in high density housing estates for the last 50 years
- Buru Buru designed project of the 1970s
- Kayole and Koma Rock ongoing developments out on the plains, about 15km from the city centre



# Nairobi's 200+ Slums



- Slums & informal settlements are widely located across the city
- Majority of Nairobi's population are of two types:
  - Squatter settlements
  - Illegal subdivisions of either government or private land
- A number of slums are located on land that is unsuitable for construction
- All have high to very high population densities
  - With up to 2300 persons/ha.
- Typically in proximity to areas with employment opportunities

# Leafy Suburbs

- Karen and Langata: Isolated from the rest of Nairobi by the Ngong Road Forest
  - Most sold for development by Karen Blixen, the Danish author, on leaving Kenya in 1931
- Enjoy sort of "county" status with dogs and horses seeming to outnumber human inhabitants
- Altitude of 1,800m: the most cosy of Nairobi's suburbs
- Runda, Loresho, New Muthaiga, Muthaiga North and Nyari: higher income estates, former farms occupying ridges in the northwest
  - The ridge positions and altitude (1,700m) make them particularly airy with attractive views
- Nearer the city narrower spurs create frequent wooded valley lending a sylvan sometimes precipitous charm to Muthaiga, Peponi Road, and Spring Valley
- Developers determined to change as estates and grotty shopping areas proliferate

# Property Prices\*

- 3 bedroom flat in Kilimani or Hurlingham sells at Ksh7M-8.5M
  - Between Sh3.5M-Sh4M: Selling price of the same property 4 years ago
- Acre of serviced land: same area risen from Ksh18m to Ksh40M today, in four years
- South B and South C areas: Ksh4M houses in 2004 now selling at Ksh7.5M
- An acre of land in the city centre is currently priced between Ksh280M-ksh300M
  - Ksh160M: cost of same parcel four-five years ago
- Mortgage companies now offer lower rates
  - Some go as low as 14% from the initial high of 30% 5 years ago

# Commerce



- Economy robust again after a prolonged decline
- Basic goods available at all scales from sharks selling toothpaste by the brush to ultra modern shopping malls
- Trade hub with qualified manpower and international links
- Nairobi the nerve centre for research and education
- Over eight universities and/ campuses
- Schools many Gov. and private International school, German school
- Innovation Attempted to make a car
- Jua Kali sector everything possible including auto modification

# Entertainment



- The Nairobi National Park: Kenyan Safari without sweating it
  - Makes unique as only city within its precincts
- For nature, history and culture buffs: Kenya National Archives, Nairobi Museum and Snake Park, Giraffe Centre, the Nairobi Arboretum, the Railway Museum, Karen Blixen Museum
  - Hotels, restaurants, pubs: ranging from high end to budget
  - For nightowls: Nightlife is alive with discotheques, bars and casinos
  - Sports Severy stadi, golf courses, race course and other emenities-
  - british premier legue craze

# Services



- Municipal services available but authority overwhelmed
- Health services available for free to nationals
- top of the range at a fee depending on type and quality (read: leaders of neighboring countries have their physicians in some of the top hospitals in the city)
- Quality  $\propto$  Ability to Pay are directly proportional
- Security personal arrangement

# Transport

- Infrastructure: great improvement from previous era
- Still substantial no. of missing links
- Road transporting cars not people
- Occupancy 1.5/pcu:  
Endless traffic jams
- Over 5000 new cars registered every month
- 80% of these remain in Nairobi



# Nairobi HBF



- Rail archival for a long time of no upgrade and minimal maintenance
- Archaic since consessoning to RVR
- Attempts to improve else concession withdrawn
- Two main international airports
- Air well connected but underutilised
- Still a premium mode of transport-out of reach to majority



0 3.5 7 14 Kilometers  
+++++

60km buffer Nairobi  
Core Centre

**Agroprocessing**

**Agroprocessing**

**Relocation of Govt  
(Executive)**

**Education & Health  
Services**

**Diplomatic**

**Education & Health  
Services**

**MICE**

**Financial/Commercial  
District**

**Tourism**

**Integrated Special Econ Zone  
Multimedia Technology Park  
Commercial District  
Educational Services**

Kijabe

Mangu

Kilima Mbogo

Uplands

Thika

Limuru

Kiambu

Ruiru

Juja

Kikuyu

Nairobi

Kamulu

Tala

Kithimani

Kangundo

Kiserian

*Provisional Metropolitan  
Boundary*

Athi River

Machakos

Olooloitikosh

Kitooni

**Financial/Commercial  
District**

Konza

Kola

# Culture and religion

- Cultural life, National Theater, conservatiore of Music
- Nairobi orchestra occassional
- Cinema Theaters state of the art
- Started with Kamba, Mugithi, Ohangla etc nights
- One of the highest number of denominations in the world
- Churches, Mosques, Temples(Jewish and Hindu)
- Ethnic groups 42 indigenous tribes but with many more sub-ethnic groups each with somehow different practices

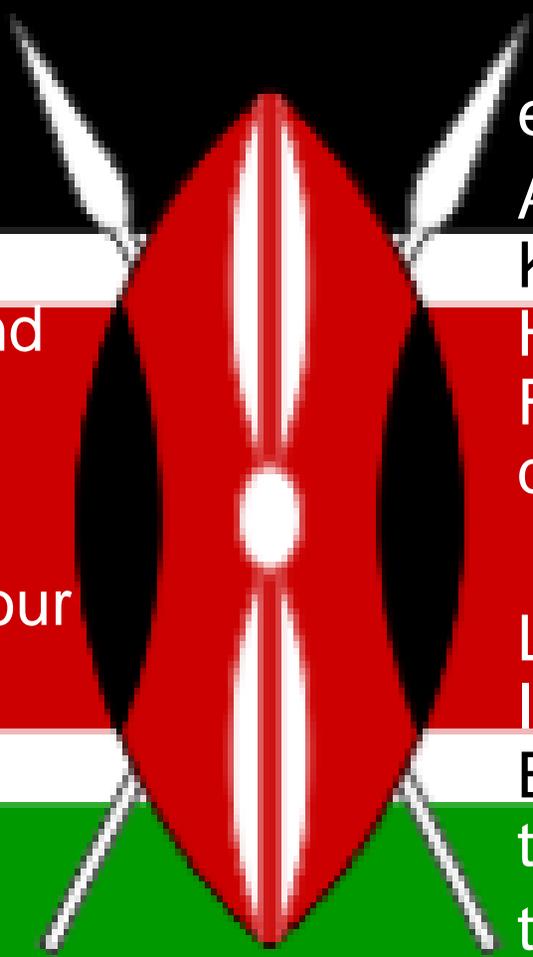
# Phenomena?

- Inflation has increased the cost of living
- you know you went to Nairobi if- you ate Nyama choma
- Tusker not a pet elephant
- Tusky is not it's baby;
- You fed girafes at girrafe centre;
- Dinner at the watering Hole or Seventh wonder of the world
- drove through streets with big marabou storcks looming overhead
- grilled meat is never the same without kachumbari
- danced, ate and wasted the night away at the Carnivore

# Phenomena?

- Tasted Luhya (or luo?) cuisine at Ranalo's
- Biashara Street literally means Business street
- designer clothes orig/fake/or at 1% at Gikomba
- Best ice cream sno cream
- „sounds“, both old, mugithi, traditional or modern african...golf? tennis? Swimming? Family hang outs?
- Matatus, buses also car rentals
- Taxis you have to haggle though there are some taxis with meters...depending on type,
- some hotels provide taxi or limousine service
- around the city-friendly taxi driver..or....tuktuk

# National Anthem



O God of all creation  
Bless this our land and  
nation

Justice be our shield and  
defender  
May we dwell in unity  
Peace and liberty  
Plenty be found within our  
borders.

Let one and all arise  
With hearts both strong  
and true  
Service be our earnest

endeavour  
And our homeland of  
Kenya

Heritage of splendour  
Firm may we stand to  
defend.

Let all with one accord  
In common bond united  
Build this our nation  
together

the glory of Kenya  
The fruit of our labour  
Fill every heart with  
thanksgiving.

A photograph of a cityscape viewed from an elevated position. The foreground is a grassy field with several young trees. In the middle ground, there are more trees and some buildings. The background shows a dense city skyline with various skyscrapers under a hazy sky. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Danke!**  
**Ahsanteni!**  
**Thankyou!**  
**Niwega! Elo**  
**Kamano!**

# Discussion

- Five Things that Make Nairobi A Phenomenon
- Comparable Experiences From Your Country' History etc(Foreigners)
- How Can we Influence Policy in Kenya(Nairobi)
- What do you think is the future of Kenya(Nairobi)
- Will the Coalition Last? What needs to be done to make it last?