

POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE IN KISII TOWN: POSITIVE ECONOMIC INFLUENCE 2007-2013

Tinega Intabo Charles (PhD)

Mount Kenya University - Kisii Campus, School of Social Sciences, Department of Humanities, P.O Box 4441, 40200, Kisii

ABSTRACT: *Post-Election Violence in Kenya and to the Kenyans refers to a political conflict that rocked the Country due to the disputed presidential election results of 2007. The main political parties in dispute were Party of National Unity (PNU), under Mwai Kibaki and Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) under Raila Odinga. This research has given a clear description of the origin of Kisii Town, the main events of the conflict between September 2007 and April 2008, and the economic effects of the violence and how this affected Kisii town. In spite of the many research works that have been carried out none has been conducted on the positive effects of the conflict and specifically how it affected Kisii town. The research employed descriptive research design method, and qualitative research type. Data was collected by the use of both oral interview and written questionnaires. The research was conducted within Kisii town. Coser's conflict theory was employed to guide this research. In the conclusion, the research points out that although the P.E.V had many negative effects in many parts of Kenya, Kisii town experienced many positive effects. The behavior employed by Abagusii of Kisii town should be emulated by all people.*

KEYWORDS: Post Elections Violence, Positive Economic Effects, Kisii Town, Abagusii, P.N.U, Odm

INTRODUCTION

In Kenya the mention of the phrase “post-election violence pours cold water down people’s veins. It reminds people of the bitter experience when friends, neighbours and tribes turned against each other due to political differences .This happened between September 2007 and April 2008.

The conflict which a rose due to disputed presidential election result spread fast and wide. To the Abagusii and Kisii Town, the P.E.V. had more positive influence. The Town experience tremendous growth in the economic, social and political fields. The researcher has discussed into details the influence of the violence in the economic field.

Origin of kisii town

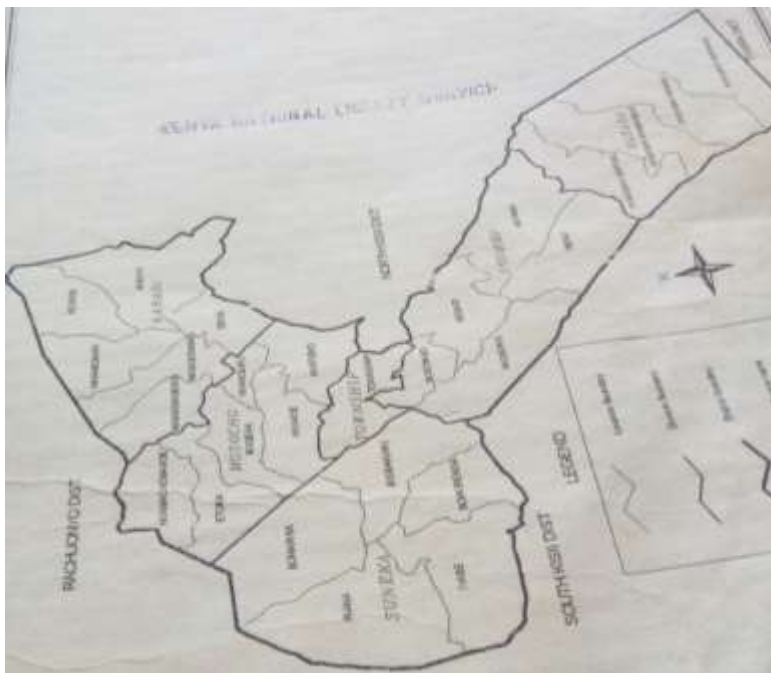
KISII town is one of the many urban centers in Kenya. It is located 0.30’s34, South west Kenya. It is the headquarters of Kisii County. This is a town whose origin attracts more than one theory among the Kisii, alias Abagusii. One of these theories asserts that the town started with the coming of Europeans in Gusii land. It was by then known as “Bosongo” (Kisii county- fact book) Bosongo is a crooked term derived from the Swahili word “mzungu” meaning the whites (Europeans.). This is a place where many of the British soldiers retreated to following the heavy gunfire from the Germans in the early 20th century. The interaction with the surrounding people of Nyaribari, Bogetutu and Bonchari led to the starting of the town.

The second theory asserts that the town started with the penetration of Arab traders in Gusiiland. According to W.R.Oching, the Abagusii used to speak of a few Arab and Swahili adventures who in the second half of 19th c penetrated into the highland. They set up a trading center at Nyaura in nyaribari. Nyaura is currently one of the estates within Kisii town. In April 1907, a British sub-commissioner Northcote opened an administration office at Getembe away from Karungu. He named the new administration "Kisii boma" this marked the birth of the name Kisii (Ochieng ,1973)

The third theory states that the town was originally called "Getembe Kia Gasuku". The place where the town is situated is said to have been invested with a sacred tree species called "Omotembe." A Suba man called Gasuku is said to have lived and could interpret Kiswahili language for easy communication among the locals and the foreigners. His dominance in this spot led the locals to call it "Getembe Kia Gasuku" literally meaning Gasuku's place.

From the above theories one can infer that the town's name was Getembe Kia Ggasuku properly during the time of Arabs. It became Bosongo when the whites came to the area and finally Kisii with the establishment of a British administration centre, 1907

MAP 1.1 Kisii Township and Environs



Course of post-election violence (P.E.V)

Election violence is not a new or unfamiliar Phenomenon in Kenya. The country has experienced several political conflicts among them being the Mau Mau rebellion of 1952. The result of this was the attainment of independence in 1963. The other conflict was the abortive coup of 1982 under president Moi's regime .The indirect result of this was the repeal of section 2A of the constitution making Kenya a multiparty state.

The 2007 /2008 Post Elections Violence was purely a political and mother of political crises in post independent Kenya. This was generally as a result of the disputed presidential elections results between the opposition Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) and Party of National

Unity (PNU). The ODM party claimed victory while PNU got declared the winner by the Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK). The PNU presidential candidate was Mwai Kibaki while ODM candidate was Raila Odinga.

Signs of political tension began to appear way back in 2007 when the incumbent President Kibaki showed signs of running for a second term in office. He was expected to serve for one term and then pave way or support Raila. Before the Dec 2007 General Elections rising levels of in-security were evident in several parts of the country including Molo, Mount Elgon, Transzoia, Kuresoi, Hola, Laikipia and Turkana. In Mount Elgon alone a total of between 150-750 people are said to have been killed by a militia group known as Sabot Land Defiance (SLD) force houses were burnt and over 60,000 people internally displaced (Kenya land alliance, 2009)

Elsewhere a major supermarket chain reported a sudden increase in the sale of machetes and announced it was limiting purchase fearing the weapons might be used in election violence. About the same time police on a routine check stopped an official car assigned to an assistant minister and an assortment of weapons mainly machetes was pounded. Soon after a woman parliamentary aspirant from western Kenya was murdered in unclear circumstances (Khamisi, 2011:193.)

In Central Kenya a 22 year old woman was pulled out of a campaign convoy by armed men, raped and then killed (Khamisi, 2001:1933). In Kisii the researcher witnessed an ugly incident in which ODM officials including the current deputy president William Ruto gatecrashed a fund raiser event organized by opponents Ford People and was violently ejected out.

The Steadman group opinion poll conducted in 2007 showed Raila leading with 45% and Kibaki 43%. The country was awash with observers from all over the world ready to witness the unfolding events. To political pundits the 2007 was a waster shed election. Two people who ousted the famous KANU in 2002 and who fell out due to leadership wrangles in National Rainbow coalition (NARC) were now meeting in a bare knuckle contest in testing their popularity. Many understood it as a battle between a Kikuyu and a Luo. It rekindled the past political antagonism between Mzee Jomo Kenyatta (Kikuyu) and Oginga Odinga (Raila's father) (Khamisi,2011:2012) The high stakes involved and the tightness of the race clearly demonstrated sighs of fears of violence regardless of who could win. The voting exercise started at 6:00am on 27.12.2007 and ended at 6pm. As results began to stream into the tallying center at Kenyatta International Conference Center (KICC) in Nairobi, many people at the center and those watching television expressed a lot of fear. It was taking too long to announce results especially those coming from Central and North Eastern Kenya.

Rival camps (pro- Raila) held impromptu press interviews and expressed dissatisfaction. Tension arose as they expressed claims of vote rigging. By the end of day two of vote counting the commanding lead of more than 370,000 votes that Raila had obtained the previous day had dwindled to 80,000. By the evening official count were showing Raila with 3,341,616 votes against Kibakis 2,450,871. Raila must have been over excited and went on to claim victory believing that what was remaining could not change the outcome. President Kibaki known to be slow but sure remained quiet.

The chairman of ECK, Samuel Kivuitu insisted saying that those were not final results. Within hours however, Raila's lead vanished and Kibaki was leading. Soon thereafter public announcement of results was stopped!

Kenyan watching live broadcasts of vote tallying were astonished at the confusion name calling and lack of transparency by tallying officials. Within hours mayhem broke out in several parts of the country. Suspicion was raised further when lights suddenly went off at the tallying Centre and Para military police stormed in to clear people out of the hall. Kivuitu went into a sealed room and announced that Kibaki had won 4,584,721 against Raila's 4,352,993, a lead of 231, 728 votes (Khamisi, 2011:2014)

To confirm election rigging to the supporters ODM officials paraded Kipkemoi Kirui a parliamentary staffer seconded to ECK, who confirmed that indeed votes were manipulated. He said , "my conscience could not allow me to see what I was seeing and keep quiet (Khamisi 2011-2014) Kirui's brave revelation shocked Kenyans and emboldened Raila's team and supporters to open defiance against Kibaki. Many people got convinced that Party of National Unity (PNU) had rigged elections.

The manner in which president Kibaki was sworn in for a second term was questionable. The event took place at state house Nairobi, shortly after the chairman of ECK made final announcement. Only party of National Unity (PNU) top officials and their sympathizers attended. The few invitees who were present were actually rushed to the ground, some arriving as Kibaki was finishing reading the oath. This was a clear indication that invitations were hurriedly dispatched.

Dressed in a dark suit and a white shirt, Kibaki took oath of office late in the evening on 30/12/2007 (Khamisi 2011:2014). Apart from Kenyans, the European Union (EU) expressed doubt over the veracity of the counts. They declared that the ECK had not succeeded in establishing the credibility of tallying process to the satisfaction of all parties and candidates (Times on line Dec. 30, 2017).

The opposition led by Raila Odinga alleged election malpractice. They tried to argue their case before ECK, but all these fell on deaf ears and blind eyes.

The opposition employed several nonviolent demonstrations across the country. In Kisumu for example supporters of Raila continuously stages peaceful demonstrations against the officials declared results. The same incidents were witnessed in parts of Nairobi, Mombasa and the Rift Valley.

When the opposition realized that the newly formed Kibaki government was not willing to listen to them, they resorted to violence. They behaved in accordance to the conflict theory of social change.

Coser, a conflict theorist asserts that conflict is a necessary condition for change. According to him there is no society changing or unchanging which does not have conflict of some kind or another (Coser: 1956). Many people were killed others wounded, displaced and property destroyed. At the initial stage the violence was targeting the Mount Kenya people (kikuyu, Meru and Embu) in the diaspora. In the Western part of Kenya and some parts of Rift Valley all those perceived to have supported Kibaki were targeted. The aim of the violence in western Kenya and Nyanza seemingly was not to kill but evict all Kibaki sympathizers.

The violence began with the murder of 50 innocent kikuyu women and children inside the Kenya Assemblies of God Pentacostal Church, Kiambaa on 2/1/2008 (Khamisi, 2001) . In Mombasa, supporters of Raila took to the streets in protest of the electoral manipulations.

Tension was high as the landless indigenous coastal communities arranged the grabbing of their ancestral land by outsiders (kikuyus)

In Nairobi's slums violence was witnessed by having many people murdered and disruption of transport and communication lines. A section of the Kenya-Uganda railway through Kibera was uprooted by pro-Raila youths. On a large scale it can generally be said that the violence was about all tribes of Kenya against the Mount Kenya people and Abagusii. It was not a surprise that some of the Abagusii who supported Raila were equally evicted and their properties destroyed in Kisumu and Nyamasaria.

According to Human Rights Watch the violence which had started spontaneously took a well-planned pattern. Planning and organization by politicians, business men, village and local leaders took Centre stage. This was particularly in the Rift Valley and Nairobi. In Naivasha, Nakuru and slum areas of Nairobi, Kikuyu gangs were mobilized and used to unleash violence against the Luos, Kalenjins and Luhya communities. They expelled them from their rented residents (Khamisi, 2011). One of the worst experiences was witnessed in Naivasha where uncircumcised Luo men were forcefully circumcised using blunt objects. Sexual violence against women and girls took the form of individual gang rapes, many of which were ethnically driven as well as female and male genital mutilation. There were cases where families including children were forced to watch their parents, brothers and sisters being sexually molested. The revenge mission staged by the Kikuyu militia, "Mungiki" slowed down the violence which had lasted for over two months.

The post-election violence (PEV) attracted not only Kenya but also the outside world. Before the arrival of Kofi Annan, Ghanaian president and African Union chairman, John Kufuor had tried to preside over the negotiations. Party of National Unity (PNU) actions such as that of sending foreign affair minister to Ghana prior to Kufuor's visit were perceived to be an indication of bad faith on the part of Kibaki. There emerged indications that PNU did not want the discussions to be mediated by an outsider. The leader of ODM Raila Odinga refused Kibaki's offer to hold talks without mediation. Raila termed such talks as sideshows and public relations gimmick.

On 8th January 2008, president Kibaki appointed 17 ministers as part of a new cabinet. He said that there would be more cabinet slots left to be filled by the opposition. The most important ministries such as finance and security were already filled. Less important and less sensitive ministries were seemingly left for the opposition. The announcement sparked fresh violence in some parts of the country. Both the opposition and the International Community expressed disappointment. US state department spokesman Sean McCormack said that US was disappointed by Kibaki's move (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007-2008_kenya_crisis)

On January 9th 2008, John Kufuor met separately with Kibaki and Raila. Kibaki gave a speech in which he said that the voting was concluded and it was impossible to change the outcome and that any complaints should be handled by the court. The two sides agreed to an immediate cessation of violence as well as any acts which may be detrimental to finding a peaceful solution to the ongoing crisis. The talks failed when Kibaki refused to sign an agreement presented to him by Kufuor to introduce an interim coalition government. John Kufuor left on 10th saying that both sides had agreed to continue talks together with former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and a panel of eminent African personalities.

On 11th January 2008, the ODM called for mass rallies to be held in about thirty places in the week that followed. On 12th January 2008 EU said that there could not be business as usual in Kenya. This followed ODM's call for the International community to place sanctions on Kibaki's "illegal" government.

Parliament opened on 15th January 2008. ODM members were led by their leader Raila and they took the opposition side. Raila sat on leader of opposition seat in parliament.

Parliament chose ODM's Kenneth Marende, the speaker of the House replacing the long serving PNU man Francis Ole Kaparo. Meanwhile threats and killings were continued in Nairobi against the minority Asians and white Kenyans. The threats and killings were attributed to the outlawed "Mungiki" sect.

The ODM's planned protests intended to last for three consecutive days began on 16th January 2008. The protests were carried out in major towns of the opposition including Nairobi, Kisumu and Eldoret.

In Kisumu City, two people were reported killed. The two were shot death by policeman identified as Edward Kirui while in Nairobi the police managed to prevent the protesters from accessing Uhuru Park. By 18th January 2008 at least 22 people were reported killed in the three days protest.

The long awaited mediator, Kofi Annan finally arrived in Kenya on 22nd January 2008. On 23rd January 2008 ODM held a memorial service in Nairobi for victims of the violence. Oginga urged Kenyans not to fight because "this is a war between the people of Kenya and a very small blood thirsty clique clinging to power"(Khamisi, 2011). In this case he meant the Kikuyu who according to him are power thirsty Kibaki and Raila met separately with Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni. According to Museveni's press secretary an agreement was reached in principal to establish a judicial commission. This could investigate the accusation of vote rigging. Museveni also proposed a power sharing deal. Just as the judicial commission got rejected because of not agreeing whether the commissioners would be appointed by the government, the power sharing idea got rejected too.

Annan met Raila and he agreed to cancel the protests that ODM had planned to hold. Kibaki and Odinga met for the first time since the beginning of the violence on 24th January 2008. Both Kibaki and Odinga urged the Kenyans to be peaceful.

As the talks were on, violence continued to be reported in Rift Valley. On 24th and 25th January 2008 serious violence broke out in Nakuru. Many people belonging to Kibaki's tribe (kikuyus) were attacked and their properties destroyed. At least 12 deaths were reported ([http://en.wikipedia.org/2007-2008kenyans crisis](http://en.wikipedia.org/2007-2008kenyans%20crisis)). Another town called Total was seriously destroyed. Two people were reported to have been killed in this violence. Over 50,000 people fled from the nearby Molo region. In Kisii and among the Abagusii, if you say that the situation has turned "Molo" the understanding is that the situation is not conducive or simply there is conflict. By 27th January 2008 at least 55 people were said to have lost their lives in Nakuru, 5 in Kaptembwa and Sewage. Nine deaths were reported in Naivasha where kikuyu set Luo homes on fire. By 28th January 2008 at least 64 people had been killed in Nakuru and at least 22 in Naivasha. According to ODM chairman Henry Kosgei, the killings in Naivasha were a government scheme intended to have some people kept indoors in the name of protection while setting killers for an easy catch (Khamisi, 2011)

On 29th January 2008 Mugabe Were an ODM member of parliament was shot and killed. This renewed protests leading to violence among his sympathizers. On 31st January 2008 another ODM member of parliament David Kimutai Too was shot death by a policeman in Eldoret.

Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) accused Party of National Unity (PNU) of trying to reduce the number of opposition MPs.

On 1st February 2008 the secretary general of United Nations Ban Ki-moon arrived in Kenya. He too added his voice to end of violence. On the same day Koffi Annan announced that the two rivals had agreed on an agenda for peace talks. The topics of discussions included ending violence, humanitarian situation, resolving the political crisis and land and historical injustices. Despite this measures, violence continued and twenty people were reported killed in various parts of the country. On 3rd February 2008 Raila Odinga called for African Union peacekeepers to be deployed in Kenya.

Annan's team agreed on Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa to lead long term talks between ODM and PNU. The PNU team refused saying that the man had business links with Raila. On 8th February 2008 Annan's team reported progress in the talks saying that both teams were willing to have political settlement. Speaking before the National Assembly on 12th February 2008, Annan reported that both sides in the talks had agreed to set up an independent review committee that was to be mandated to investigate all aspects of the 2007 presidential elections. He further said that both sides of the National Assembly had agreed to work together in passing legislation that would resolve the crisis.

On 15th February 2008 Annan announced that the two sides had agreed on a number of reforms such as improvement of electoral laws and human rights as well as the review of the constitution. Although they had not agreed upon the composition of a power-sharing government, Kibaki's side was said to advocate for strong executive powers Raila's side was on the other hand advocating for executive power in the new position of Prime Minister.

On 18th February 2008 the US secretary of state Condorizza Rice arrived in Kenya to support the talks. She met with President Kibaki, Raila and Koffi Annan and emphasized on the need for peaceful settlement of the crisis. She disassociated the US government of dictating a solution to Kenya as earlier implied by foreign affairs minister Moses Wetangula

On 19th February 2008 president Kibaki announced that he was willing to share power so long as it was within the context of the existing constitution.

The president of Tanzania and chairman of African Union Jakaya Kikwete arrived in Kenya on 27th February 2008 to assist in the talks. On this day, Odinga announced that his party ODM had decided not to resume protest as planned. He expressed optimism on the ongoing talks. On 27th Feb 2008, President Kibaki and Raila signed an agreement that ended the crisis. In the presence of Koffi Annan, the agreement was called the National Accord and Reconciliation Act (NARA)

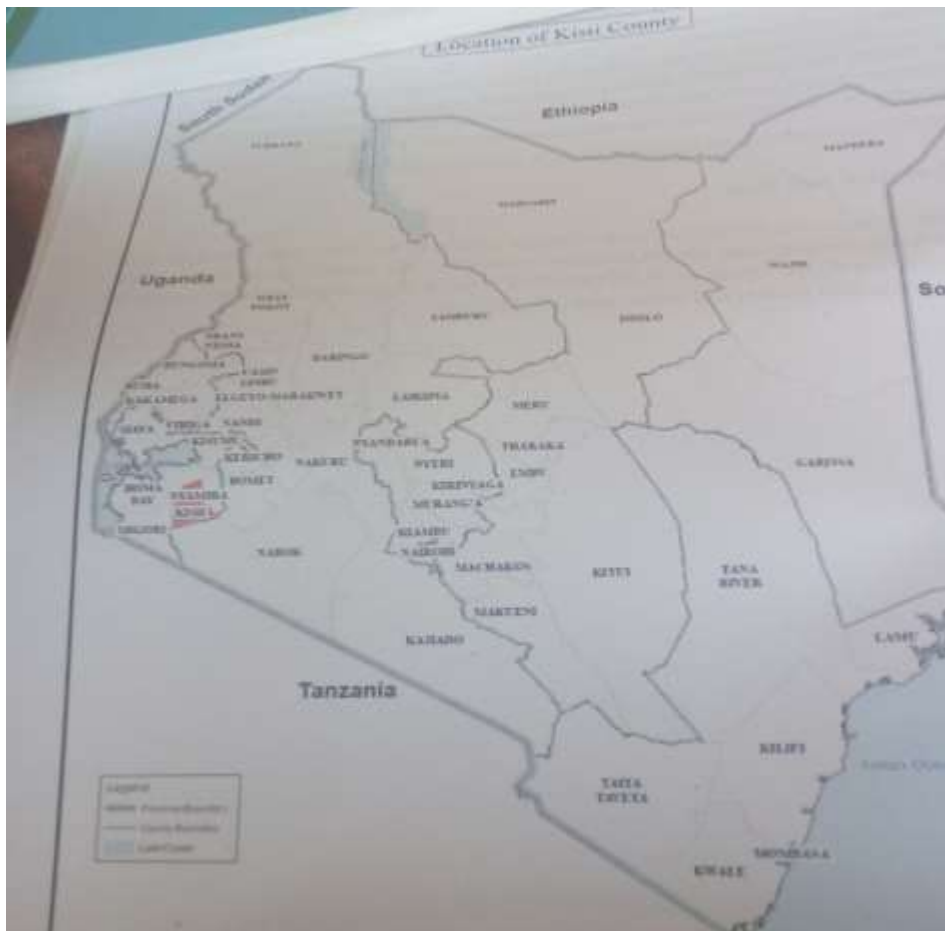
The two leaders agreed to form a coalition government with Raila as the Prime Minister. The NARA provided for two deputy prime ministers one from PNU and the other from ODM. Allotment of the cabinet portfolio could reflect the relative strength of the respective parties in the National Assembly.

Koffi Annan left Kenya on 2nd March 2008 leaving Oluyemi Adeniji a former Nigerian foreign minister to lead the talks on the remaining issues.

Speaking in the National Assembly on 6th March 2008, president Kibaki urged members to quickly pass the legislation required to implement the power sharing agreement. He said that people were watching to see pragmatic solutions and not ideological posturing. He named four bills that the National assembly needed to pass National Accord and Reconciliation Bill, a bill amending constitution, a bill establishing the truth and reconciliation commission and a bill dealing with ethnic issues.

On 13th April 2008 president Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila named their cabinet of 40 ministers and 50 assistant ministers. Uhuru Kenyatta was named PNU deputy prime minister while Musalia Mudavadi became ODM's deputy prime minister. The cabinet was sworn to office on 17th April 2008 at state house Nairobi

Map 1.2 location of Kisii county in Kenya.



ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE POST ELECTION VIOLENCE IN KISII TOWN

The town experienced tremendous growth during and after the PEV. According to Kisii County-Fact Book, the town's population grew steadily over 21.7 per cent. The table below illustrates this point.

Table 1.1 Population Growths in Kisii Town.

	2009	2012	2015	2017
Male	31,329	33,368	35,538	37,064
Female	30,563	32,552	34,669	36,158
Total	61,892	65,920	70,207	72,223

Source KNBS 2013

The town is the hub of all retail and wholesale trade in the whole of South Nyanza and parts of Southern Rift Valley. By 2008, there were only 8 commercial banks, 4 micro finance institutions and 3 insurance company branches. The conducive economic environment that prevailed in the town attracted several traders and labourers leading to the expansion of the above commercial institutions and the establishment of new others. Kenya commercial Bank (KCB) opened-second branch called KCB Western Branch along the Kisii-Daraja Mbili road, near Kisii Hotel. Co-operative Bank also opened a new branch opposite the KCB branch and called it Co-operative Bank, Western Branch. Both branches were opened in 2013. Other commercial banks in Kisii town include Barclays Bank, National Bank, Equity Bank, Family Bank, CFC Stanbic Bank (2011) Diamond Trust Bank, K-Rep bank, Eco-Bank, Trust Bank, Chase Bank, Post Bank and many others. Sacco societies in town are Kisii Mwalimu Sacco (SASA), Mwalimu National Sacco (WSF) Wakenya Pamoja Sacco and Women Enterprise Fund (WEF). Due to increased membership WSF was forced to shift business to a more specious place in Mocha Place opposite Nakumatt Supermarket

The post-election violence led to an acute shortage of housing facilities in the town. New rental houses were put up within and the surrounding areas thus expanding the size of the municipality e.g Omocha house. Old structures in town were demolished and new modern ones constructed. Single storey houses were developed further by adding more floors e.g Gilta plaza. Areas such as Gesonso, Nyamataro, Nyankongo, Daraja Mbili, Getare, Bobaracho, Minyinkwa, Kiogoro and Nyanchwa expanded rapidly. The existing water and sewerage system as well as the existing social and recreational facilities got over stretched. This prompted the Kisii County Government to shift the sewage dumping site from Daraja Mbili to Suneka area. A mega project/structure was put up on the site. The cemetery (Nyambera) has since been reclaimed. The dumping site near Kisii hospital has been shifted elsewhere and paved way for rapid expansion of the town's CBD. Magnificent structures eg. Guardian Plaza and Mwamotumbi Stand tall in this area.

According to Kisii senior Development Control Officer Mr. Alfred Mwanja Juma a 50ft /100ft piece of land within Municipality rose from Kshs 3m to Kshs. 5m in 2009 and from Kshs. 5m to Kshs. 20m in 2013. The use of the word 'Meter' referring to million i.e one meter (1 million) etc. became very common in Kisii town

The rapid population growth led to expansion and opening of new business premises in town. Super markets were expanded and new others started. Among those that registered remarkable growth are; Tuskeys (Chigware), Uchumi, Nakumatt, Naivas, Shivling, Kisii Matress, Oshwal, Ukwala and Best price.

A part from supermarkets, hundreds of both wholesalers and retailers showed great expansion. Some of the giant wholesalers are Umoja, Ouru, Mogumo, Jumbo, Dakianga, Gudka, etc. Open markets were increased in town, some of which are located on narrow streets/Back streets i.e between National bank and Kisii Matress supermarket, Family Bank-Kisii mattress, street

behind commercial bank, street behind Oyondi building-Safaricom shop, etc. Thursdays and Mondays became very busy days in the town. These are open market days at Daraja Mbili area. Research revealed that by 2013 there was no open space in Kisii town that lay idle. Apart from the small golf course next to the Kisii Stadium no any other open recreation/park exist in Kisii town. Mr. Mwanicha revealed that the current Ukwala Supermarket, Gilly Plaza, Twin Towers, Elimu Centre and Mitumba areas were idle before 2008.

It was unfortunate that this rapid growth rate was not concomitant with the development of infrastructure in the town to serve all the residents. This led to expansion and opening up of new roads and streets. The main roads are Mashauri - Minyinkwa road, Daraja Moja –Migori junction road, Baclays-hospital round about road, cemetery road, Daraja moja-Nyamira road, campus road, Nyanchwa road,old Daraja mbili road and Daraja mbili –nyamataro road. Major streets in town include; Ogembo street, Posta-Ram hospital street, Stadium street, Hema Hospital-Kisii Jua kali street, Falcon-Hospital roundabout street, Sakawa-capital roundabout street, capital roundabout –old Sansora street, Ram hospital-kisii hospital roundabout streets, kisii mortuary-Post Bank street, Kisii roundabout -Kisii Hotel streets, Total Tyres house-New life Church street Nyanchwa-Daraja Mbili street, industrial area street, KCB street, Mwalimu International Hotel-Gudka street and Gudka-Mashauri street. Newly constructed roads in town include Nyankongo- Getare, Kiogoro-Nyaura, Bobaracho-Menyinkwa, Jogoo-Kisii Bottlers,Gesonso-Itibo and Nyabururu-Kanunda.

To decongest the town, off huge traffic, one main bus station was constructed next to Turkey’s supermarket. This could not yet solve traffic in town, leading to the opening of another bus station next to Ukwala supermarket. A part from the above two, passengers aboard and alight at Mashauri, Daraja Moja, Kegogi junction, Migori Junction and many others within town. Motorcycle transport (bodaboda) developed and was by 2013 one of the busiest industry in town. It further complicated road transport in Kisii town.

Map 1.3 Road Network in Kisii Town



Hotel business in Kisii town experienced growth during and after the PEV period. What had started as just a philanthropic exercise turned into serious income generating activity in Kisii town. According to Onyinkwa Onyakundi in his publication; KISII TOWN: The unsung heroes of PEC (Dec 2008), “Market women gave bananas and fruits as wananchi held impromptu harambees to buy food to those fleeing the violence” Temporal businesses serving food were opened along streets to meet the high demand of food to internally Displace persons. Small hotels grew to big ones as the big ones expanded further. New business of selling water to both town dwellers and hotels developed. Young men could be seen fetching and selling water to homes small and big Hotels in town. The spring at Daraja moja could be seen crowded throughout day and night with several handcarts (mkokoteni) used to transport water. A 20lt gallon of water was Kshs. 10 in 2007. In 2013 it had risen to Kshs. 20. At least four men push it and could be paid Kshs. 300 per trip. Those who filled the containers at the river were paid Kshs. 100 for one handcart. The notable Hotels in town include, Storm, Mwalimu International, Kisii Sports Club, Kisii Hotel, Dados, Zonic, Nile, Mashpark, Sakagwa, Serengeti, Capital, Magharibi, Nyakoe Hotel, Ufanisi Resort, Stephens, Dallas Inn, Jazz, Metro Highway, St. Vincent etc.

Idlers got work to do in this business and others in the motorcycle transport. Insecurity was reduced in town by increasing the number of reinforcement officers. According to Mr. Mwanicha in 2007 there were only 100 security/ reinforcement officers within Kisii town. The increased population led to employment of more officers to 1587 in 2013.

Information gathered from the revenue officer Mr. Mochama David indicates that revenue collection grew steadily since 2007. Total revenue collection in 2008 was Kshs. 83,742,476. By 2012 the total collection had risen to Kshs. 216,611,515 only. However, due to being an election year, the 2013 collection showed a negative deviation. The table below shows the increase in each year

Table 1.2 Revenue Collection, Kisii Municipality

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Kshs.	83,742,476	130,865,570	128,723,420	142,618,243	216,611,515	196,206,864

Source A.R..I, Kisii Municipal

METHODOLOGY

This research paper adopted descriptive research design method. A lot of narration was needed to clearly unearth the events of the study. Being a historical study, qualitative research type was more conveniently employed. Data collection was done using two instruments i.e oral interview and structured questionnaire. Several copies of the questionnaire were sent to institutions of interest within the municipality e.g schools, county offices and churches. Oral interviews were carried out by the researcher in government offices such as county statistics office, lands office/survey, churches, banks and supermarkets. The collected data was meticulously analyzed and interpreted leading to the final conclusion of the study. The major challenges experienced in using the above data instruments includes high costs and long period taken. Some respondents were unwilling to provide information, others reported of misplacing questionnaires while others still were not easily available. These and many other factors led to

increased expenditure and long time taken. The researcher had to adjust the working budget to meet the demand. He was always guided by the saying “patience pays”.

CONCLUSION

The scope of post-election violence is wide and more than what has been discussed in this paper. This paper has only limited itself to the economic influence in Kisii town (2007-2013). It opens way for further research to be done on the other remaining fields not only in Kisii, but other towns in Kenya.

According to conflict theorists, conflict is a necessary thing for change to be realized. Individuals, communities, countries and even continents often find themselves in conflict. This is assumed to be normal. Whenever such differences arise a solution must be found through peaceful means and negotiations. Political conflicts seem to take Centre stage in Africa and more specific, Kenya. The behavior employed by the Abagusii ought to be emulated by all the more than 42 tribes of Kenya Abagusii welcomed and accommodated all people regardless of tribe, race, class, age, sex, religion or political affiliation.

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LIST OF INTERVIEW RESPONDENTS

- Mr. Alfred Mwanicha Juma: Senior Development Control Officer, Kisii Town
Mr. Achoki Patrick: Director Physical Planning, Kisii County
Mr. Mochama David: Senior Revenue Officer, Kisii Town
Mrs. Rose Mauti: Market Assistant, Kisii Municipal