CURRENT POLITICAL & SOCIAL SITUATION IN KENYA

POST-ELECTION GLANCES AT TANZANIA/UGANDA

By George Okachi – March 2026

"Our team have been deepily involved in coverage and analysing developments from Nairobi protests to Tanzania elections to Uganda elections. This give us a frontline sort of experience of the reality on the ground.

PRESENTATION ROADMAP

The GenZ protest

Media's critical role

The 2027 Election Landscape

Uganda's TZ Lessons

Preparations, voter registration e.t.c

The People's power

"When you think of Kenya today—what single word comes to mind: volatility, resilience, or uncertainty—and why?"

Kenya's Resilience Amid Political & Economic Storms

- Kenya has weathered the political and economic storms caused by the 2024 Gen Z protests,

- Raila Odinga's October 2025 passing, and fragile regional/global contexts to emerge into 2026 tested but still considerably intact.

- Favorable 2025 agricultural season, some considerable fiscal discipline, and relative political tranquility have ensured economic cushion despite persistent cost of living pressures.

- 2024 protests forced government recalibration through cabinet dismissals and policy reversals

- Challenges persist: Elite consolidation, voter disengagement, and regional election spillovers make some voters doubtful and worrisome.

In our reporting on the street during the Finance Bill protests— ordinary Kenyans demonstrated that collective action can force accountability from entrenched power structures.

"Do you think Kenya's 2024 protests strengthened democracy – or simply reset elite bargains at the top?"

"If you had to brief a potential investor or policymaker on Kenya's current trajectory in 30 seconds–what would you emphasize first: politics, people, or policy?"

The 2027 Election– Mathematical Inevitability of a Runoff

Fragmented opposition guarantees second round under constitutional requirements

There are hypothetical feeling that opposition could be delaying to name a united candidate to force a runoff.50%+1 vote threshold AND 25% in 24 counties is need.

Raila Odinga's death creates ODM leadership vacuum
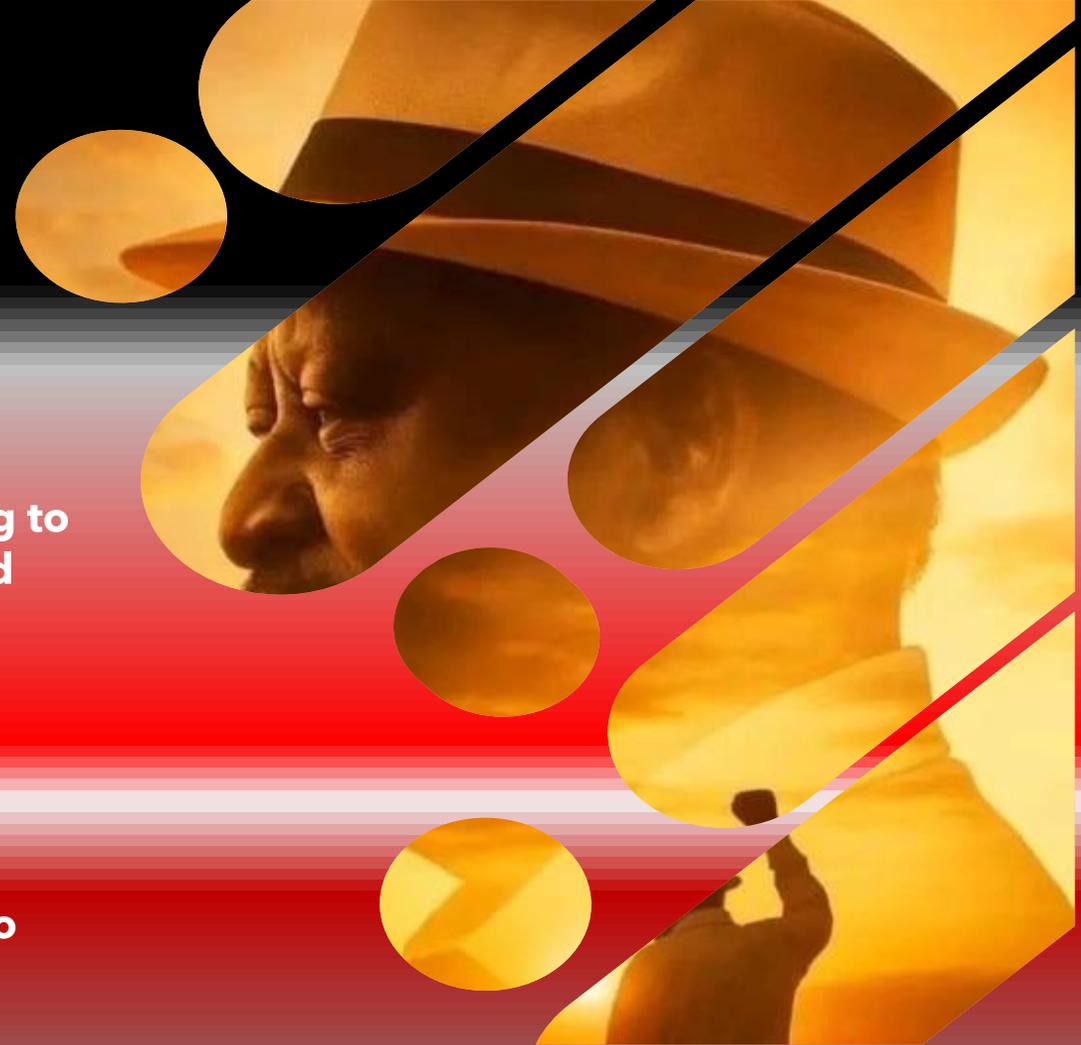
His absence also disorients political order.

He was a unified opposition figure who carried the true hopes to take over the government.

Political rhetoric was majorly designed under who are for or against Raila Odinga

How will Raila absence influence voting patterns?

50+1 RULE

"The one term rhetoric"

Voter Registration Crisis – The Invisible Rigging

Current registered voters: 22 million (2022 peak), with 6+ million youth unable to participate

ID issuance delays and rural access barriers systematically exclude young voters

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) targets 28 million by 2027 – highly improbable

Historical precedent: 1.5 million "ghost voters" removed before 2017 election

Journalist's perspective: "we have witnessed voter apathy in by-elections. Critics have also cited state interference.

"Can Kenya claim to be a democracy if six million youth simply never get onto the voter roll?"

Digital voter registration/use of tech in upcoming polls

IEBC's digital voter registration promises accessibility but some say it hides fundamental vulnerabilities

No independent security audits; 2022 hacking demonstrations exposed server weaknesses

2017 KIEMS system failures disproportionately benefited incumbent during result transmission

2022 Media Catastrophe: Polling station forms publicly available online, yet media failed to independently aggregate and verify totals in real time

2027 Imperative: Media must build data journalism capacity NOW to independently verify and declare results

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"In a digital-first election, is Kenya safer from manipulation—or merely opening new, invisible frontiers of control?"

Violence Predictability – By-Elections as Warning Signs

55 by-elections since 2022 averaged 25% violence incidents (KNCHR data)

KNCHR says by elections in 2026 lack transparency and credibility . The commission documented three deaths linked to election-related violence.

Critical Insight: Violence is NOT inevitable – 2022 transparency gains + media verification create protective shield

Urgent action required: Data journalism capacity building + popular mobilization against state abuse

By-elections serve as predictive models. The transparency mechanisms established post-2007 (public forms, parallel tallies) remain powerful if activated by credible media.

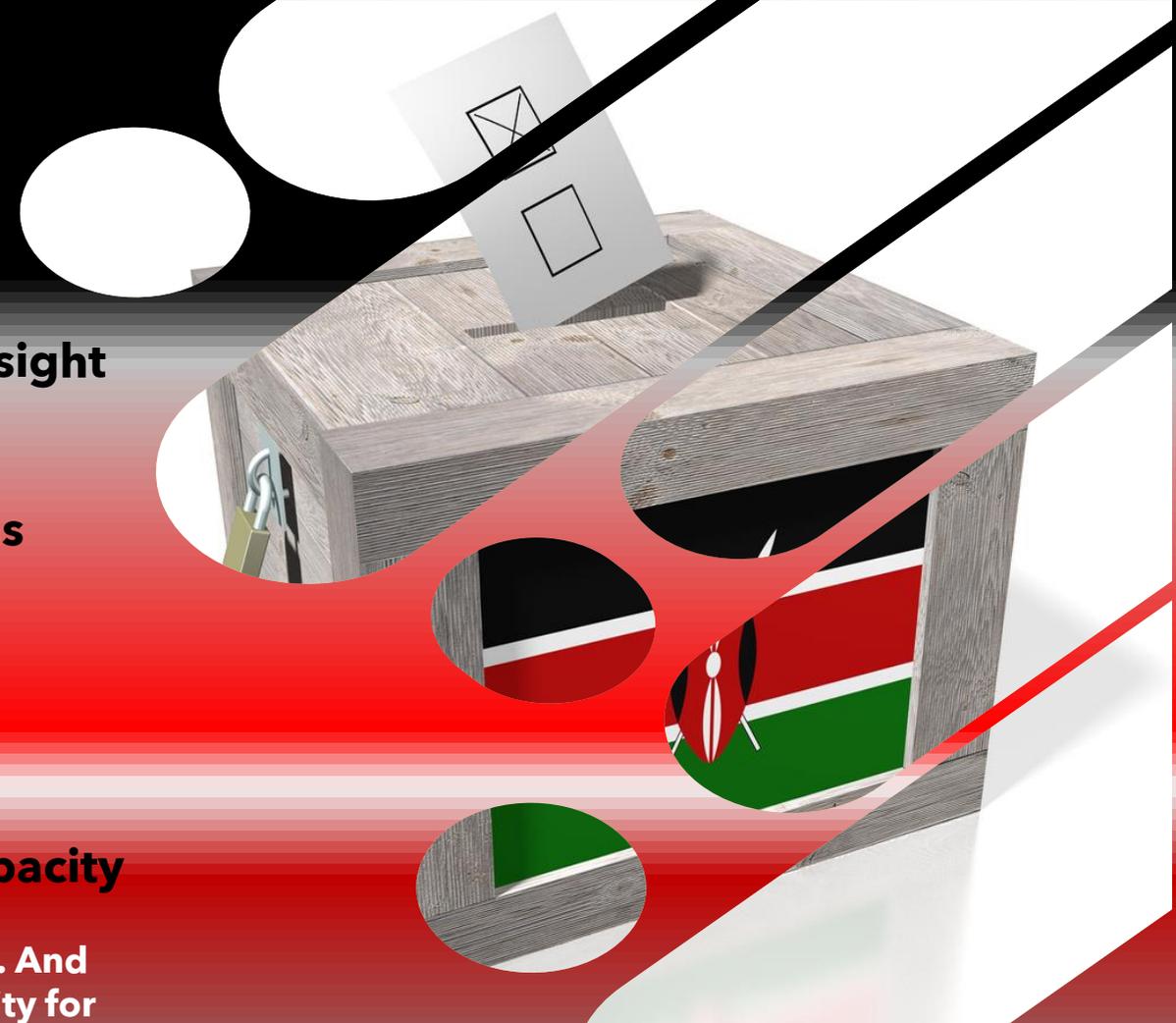# Journalism Under Siege – Capacity Rebuilding Imperative

Media faces existential threats eroding electoral oversight capability

AI-generated deepfakes targeting diplomatic relations (2025)

Government raids and license suspensions post-2024 protests

Collapsing business models threaten investigative capacity

Journalist's commitment: "We(DW) have debunked viral fabrications. And rebuilding data verification capacity. Local media should build capacity for this. It is non-negotiable for 2027 credibility."

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"What's more dangerous to democracy—disinformation or silence?"

Tanzania 2025 – Cautionary Tale

Samia Suluhu Hassan secured 97% amid claims of opposition suppression

CHADEMA leadership boycotted the elections, 700+ deaths reported

Internet blackouts and border violence spilling into Kenya (Namanga)

Direct lesson: Media suppression + elite control = predictable violence escalation

Tanzania's breakdown directly impacts Kenya through refugee flows and regional destabilization. Some Kenyans doubtful that events in TZ can spillover in 2027 Kenya's elections. But caution is needed.

"How far is Kenya today from its own 'Tanzania moment'?
Are we confident our institutions would resist similar suppression?

Uganda 2026 - Elite Eternity Confirmed

Yoweri Museveni, 81, secures 71% in tightly controlled process

Bobi Wine's campaign crippled by arrests and digital restrictions
State-controlled internet echoes Kenya's mobile voting centralization risks

Personal perspective: "My Ugandan heritage reveals familiar patterns – elite circulation becomes elite eternity without countervailing power." The modern autocrat theory...

Uganda demonstrates endpoint of circulation without disruption.

"When a leader outlives his opposition, what does this first–the state's future or public faith in change?"
How about Constitutional amendment chants to extend term limits in Kenya?

People's Realistic Power - The Violence Prevention Formula

2024 protests proved popular action surpasses electoral processes

Finance Bill veto demonstrated street power over institutional capture

Prevention Architecture: Media verification + mass mobilization = transparency shield

Two interlocking strategies:
Data journalism independently calling election truth

Popular nonviolent presence deterring state overreach

The 2022 lesson must not be repeated: Capacity exists - action determines outcome

Notes: This represents our core thesis - violence becomes a choice when prevention mechanisms exist but remain unused.

"If the street can veto a finance bill, could it also veto an illegitimate election result–nonviolently?"

Concrete Action Steps for Crisis Prevention

Media Responsibility:
Establish cross-outlet data verification consortium immediately

Invest in election data aggregation training and technology
Commit to independent result declaration regardless of official narratives

Popular Action: Mass registration campaigns, result verification networks, nonviolent presence

Institutional Oversight: Fund independent journalism, demand IEBC tech audits, deploy EAC observers

Question for discussion: With Tanzania and Uganda's fresh scars, will Kenya's media accept this responsibility?

For Discussion

"After hearing all this—would you say Kenya's stability is a reason to invest, or a reason to wait?"

THANK YOU !