 Lives and Contributions of Kenyan Leaders
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MZEE JOMO KENYATTA
FIRST PRESIDENT OF KENYA 1964-1978

MZEE JOMO KENYATTA BECAME THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER IN 1963-1964
Jomo Kenyatta

1. **Kenyatta** was born between 1892-1898 at Ng'enda in Gatundu, Kiambu

2. In 1909, he joined Thogoto mission where he learnt Christianity, reading, writing, agriculture and carpentry

3. In 1914, he was baptized Johnston. In 1919, he married Wahu his first wife

4. In 1922, he joined politics as an editor of 'Muiguithania' newspaper of KCA (Kikuyu Central Association)

5. In 1929, he went to England to present African grievances and while furthering his education in London he wrote a book on kikuyu culture 'Facing Mount Kenya'
6. He also got exposed to Pan African movement that was campaigning for a united Africa to fight colonialism

7. In 1947 when he returned to Kenya he became a leader of Kenya African Union (KAU) which was implicated in the Mau Mau. This earned him a jail term together with others in 1952

8. In 1960 KANU (Kenya African National Union) won the elections but refused to form a government until Kenyatta was released

9. In 1961, when he was released, he joined the Legislative Council as a member of Fort Hall (Muranga)
9. In 1962, he attended the Second Lancaster House Conference

10. In 1963, KANU won elections and Kenyatta became the first Prime Minister. When Kenya became a republic in 1964 he became the first president of the Republic of Kenya

11. Under his presidency the country gradually became a one party state

12. Kenyatta died on 22nd August 1978 at state-house in Mombasa.
Challenges encountered by Kenyatta at Independence

Political:

1. Rivalry within KANU. Some KANU members e.g. Oginga Odinga broke away to form the KPU
2. Opposition from KADU which advocated for a Majimbo government
Economic:
1. Land issues, especially the former European farms
2. Lack of capital
3. Poor transport and communications
4. Shortage of manpower.

Social:
1. Poverty
2. Ignorance
3. Disease.
Contributions of Kenyatta to the Liberation Struggle in Kenya up to 1963

1. Involved in the formation of the early political organization e.g. KCA
2. Edited the KCA newspaper - 'Muiguithania" - which aired African grievances
3. While in Britain between 1929 and 1946, he presented African grievances e.g. in 1929, he represented Kenyans before the British government
4. 1945 - He attended the Pan-African Congress in Manchester, Britain which advocated for decolonization
5. 1947 - He assumed leadership of KAU
7. 1952 - Kenyatta was arrested and detained with other KAU officials. This drew international attention to the cause of Kenya
8. 1961 - He joined the Legco as a member of Fort Hall (Murang'a). He joined other nationalists in the struggle for independence
9. 1962 - Kenyatta, with other African nationalists attended the Lancaster House Conference in London, to prepare the way for independence
10. 1st June 1963, Kenya attained internal self-government, with Kenyatta as the Prime Minister.
Achievements of Kenyatta

1. He united the country and KANU emerged as the ruling party
2. Maintained good and cordial relations between Kenya and her neighbours
3. Kenya achieved great progress in agriculture and industry
4. Under him, education and medical facilities were expanded
5. He inculcated the ethics of hard work through the Harambee spirit.
6. His years as a leader were characterized by:
   a. Firm leadership
   b. Dedication to Kenya's sovereignty
   c. Defence of African dignity

7. He supported Liberation Movements in other African countries

8. Gave support to continental organizations e.g. the OAU and international bodies e.g. the Commonwealth

DANIEL TOROITICH ARAP MOI

THE SECOND PRESIDENT OF KENYA
1978-2002
Daniel T. Arap Moi

I. Moi was the second president of the Republic of Kenya after the death of Kenyatta in 1978. He was born in Sacho, Baringo District in the Rift Valley Province.

II. He attended AIC Kabartonjo and Kapsabet Schools.

III. He trained as a teacher in 1944 and later became assistant principal at the Tambach college.

IV. In 1955, he joined politics and won a legislative council seat in 1957 elections.

V. He became a member of the AEMO (African Elected Members Organization).

VI. He played a leading role in the Lancaster House conferences.
VI. In 1960 he helped in the formation of KADU and after its dissolution he was given a cabinet post in the KANU government
VII. In 1961 elections he was re-elected the member of Baringo North
VIII. He represented his constituents as a member of parliament up to 2002
IX. In 1967 Moi was appointed Kenya's vice president, a position he served for twelve years.
X. In 1978, he succeeded Kenyatta as president
XI. He ruled Kenya for 24 years
XII. During his reign he brought a lot of social, economic and political developments in the country until the year 2002 when he retired from active political life
XIII. It was during his tenure of office that Kenya reverted back to a multi-party state.
Benefits of Daniels Arap Moi's 24-year Reign

1. Restoration of relative peace in North Eastern Kenya
2. Enhancing national unity
3. Introduction of the 8-4-4 system of education in 1984
4. Introduction of the Nyayo Philosophy, urging Kenyans to be mindful of others welfare
5. Expanding university education
6. Presiding over Harambees to provide educational facilities
7. Expansion of medical facilities
8. Campaigned for Afforestation and prevention of soil erosion
9. Improvement of the agricultural sector
10. Launching of the District Focus for Rural Development in 1983
11. Mediated disputes at the regional and continental levels
12. Appointed women to high positions in the ruling party KANU and government
13. Regular holding of elections
14. Revival of the EAC
15. Urged Kenyans to preserve their culture
Challenges faced by Moi during his Reign

1) Attempted coup d'Etat on 1st August 1982, by the Air Force on the government of president Moi.

2) Pressurized to repeal section 2A of the Kenyan constitution to allow for multi-party democracy in December 1991

3) Clashes in various parts of Kenya e.g. Rift Valley which were blamed on his government

4) Corruption was rampant in his government e.g. embezzlement of public funds and grabbing of public land

5) His government was accused by Amnesty International of Human rights abuses

6) Political assassinations e.g. Robert Ouko. which were blamed on the Moi government

7) Caused a rift within KANU when he attempted to pick Uhuru Kenyatta as his successor. He failed in this venture.
OGINGA ODINGA
Oginga Odinga

1. He was born in 1911 in Sakwa Central Nyanza (Bondo) in Nyanza province.
2. He schooled at Maranda, Maseno, Alliance and Makerere where he graduated with a diploma in education.
3. He worked at Maseno as a teacher and started Luo Thrift company and became its chairman.
4. He joined politics in 1946 when he was elected to represent Central Nyanza in the African District council elections.
5. In 1957 he was elected to legislative council and helped in the formation of AEMO.
6. He contributed towards Lancaster house conferences and the formation of KANU.
7. He sacrificed not to form a government in 1960 until Kenyatta was released from jail.
8. In 1963 he was elected Member of Parliament for Bondo and Minister for Home Affairs
9. At independence he was the first Vice-President
10. In 1966 when he was sidelined at the Limuru Conference, he resigned as vice president and minister and he formed the Kenya peoples Union (KPU)
11. KPU was banned in 1969
12. He was arrested and detained by the Kenyatta government up to 1971
13. He remained inactive in politics up to 1989 when he started struggling for multi-partyism. This was achieved in 1991 and he became the leader of opposition in parliament
Oginga Odinga's role in Politics in Pre and Post Independent Kenya

1) Oginga urged the Luo to join KAU In 1948
2) He participated in the 1957 elections and was elected to represent Central Nyanza. He became the chairman of AEMO. Through AEMO he pressurized for a new constitution
3) He was instrumental in the formation of KANU and became its vice-president
4) When KANU and KADU formed a coalition after the 2nd Lancaster House Conference. Oginga was appointed the minister for Home Affairs.
4) When Kenya attained independence Oginga was appointed Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs (1964 - 1966).

5) He published the book 'Not Yet Uhuru' which urged Kenyans to do away with colonialism completely.

6) He spearheaded the struggle for the re-introduction of pluralism in Kenya in the 1990's leading to the repealing of section 2A of the constitution in December 1991.

7) From 1992 till his death in 1994 (20th January) he was the leader of the opposition.
THOMAS JOSEPH MBOYA
Well known as TOM MBOYA
Tom Mboya

I. He was born in 1930 in Kilimambogo where his father was working in a sisal plantation.

II. He attended Ndonyo Sabuk primary school. Kilimambogo then proceeded to St Mary's Yala school before joining Mang'u between 1946 and 1947.

III. In 1946 he trained and graduated in 1950 as a health inspector.

IV. He worked as a sanitary inspector in Nairobi City Council in 1951.

V. He joined trade union politics in 1952 where he achieved a lot.

VI. 1953 - Mboya became the secretary General of the Kenya Federation of Labour (KFL) and protested against:

a. Mass arrest
b. Detention
c. Torture of African workers
d. Arbitrary pay
e. Low wages and poor housing e.t.c.
VII. He also became the Secretary General of the Kenya Local Government Workers Union (KLGWU) in 1953.

VIII. He became the treasurer of KAU in 1953.

IX. In 1954 - Mboya was invited to Brussels by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), which gave financial assistance to the KFL.

X. In 1955 he helped quell a strike of the dock workers in Mombasa, negotiated and won a 33% pay rise and better working conditions.

XI. He was admitted to Ruskin college in Oxford where he studied politics, economic and industrial relations between 1955 and 1956.

XII. In 1957 he was elected to the legislation council.
XIII. In 1957 he formed the Nairobi Peoples Convention Party (NPCB) and became its president

XIV. In 1958 he was elected to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) executive board

XV. In 1959 he promoted scholarship (air lifts) for Kenyan students to the USA

XVI. He played a leading role in Lancaster House Conferences and later in the formation of KANU in 1960

XVII. He was the Secretary General of KANU from 1960 to 1969

XVIII. At independence he was appointed Minister of Labour, later Constitutional Affairs and he also served as Minister for Economic Planning and Development until 1969 when he was assassinated in Nairobi

XIX. He acted as a trade unionist nationalist and freedom fighter.
Tom Mboya's contribution to the Independence Struggle in Kenya

1. 1953 - Elected secretary of the Kenya Local Government Workers Union and later the Secretary General of the Kenya Federation of Labour. He used his position to champion the rights of the Kenyans

2. Protested against the colonial government's decision to separate the Agikuyu, Aembu and Ameru from other communities in Nairobi

3. 1953 - Assumed the post of treasurer of KAU and used his position to air African grievances.
3. He formed the Nairobi People Convention Party in 1957 to articulate the grievances of his people.

4. Appealed for financial support from the ICFTU.

5. As a member of the AEMO, he pressured the colonial government to grant more political concessions to Kenyans.

6. He was elected president of the All-Africa People's Conference in Accra, Ghana in 1958. He used this forum to fight for decolonization.
7. He boycotted the Legco in 1959, together with other African members and called for a constitutional conference
8. Mboya played a prominent role during the negotiations at the First Lancaster House Conference in 1960
9. Mboya was instrumental in the formation of KANU in 1960, the party which led Kenya to independence
10. Demanded for the release of detained nationalists e.g. Kenyatta
11. He attended the Second Lancaster House Conference in 1962 which drafted the independence constitution for Kenya.
Ronald Ngala

a. He was born in 1923 in Kilifi Coast Province
b. He was educated at Kaloleni and Buxton primary schools, Alliance High School and Makerere University where he graduated with a diploma in education
c. He joined the Coast African Association In 1947
d. He was elected legislative council member for Coast Rural constituency In 1957
e. He became the Minister for Labour Social Security and Adult Education In 1958
f. He was also elected treasurer of Africa Elected Members Organization (AEMO) in 1958 up to 1960
g. He influenced the colonial secretary Allan Lennox Boyd to add Africans in the legislative council from ten to sixteen and bargained for Africans to be the majority in the legislative council at the Lancaster House Conference

h. He helped in the formation of KADU and served as its chairman

i. He was official leader of opposition at independence

j. Ngala and the members of KADU decided to voluntarily disband the party and join KANU in 1964

k. Ngala was elected vice-president of KANU for coast province in 1966 and 1970 he became the Minister for Power and Communications

l. Ngala died in a car accident on December 13th 1972
Ronald Ngala's contribution in the Struggle for Independence

1. He joined the Coast African Association in 1947 and used it to air African grievances
2. Called for the release of detained leaders
3. Urged his people, the Mijikenda, to form the Mijikenda Union to pressurize the colonial government to grant reforms to Africans
4. Ngala was elected to the Legco to represent the Coast Rural Constituency in 1957.
5. He was elected treasurer of AEMO and was sent with Tom Mboya to London to demand for more constitutional reforms for Africans
6. 1960 - Ngala helped in the founding of KADU, a party of minority ethnic groups, with the aim of counter-balancing the Kikuyu-Luo oriented KANU party.

7. Ngala participated in the First Lancaster House Conference which discussed the independence constitution.


10. In 1963 Elections - KADU lost to KANU. Ngala became the leader of the opposition party – KADU.

11. In 1963 Ngala was elected as the first president of the Coast Regional Assembly.

12. In 1964 Ngala agreed to the voluntary disbanding of KADU and its leaders were absorbed into KANU in order to preserve national unity.
WANGARI WA MAATHAI

1940-2011
Early life

I. Born in 1st April 1940 in ihithe village, Tetu division, Nyeri District in Kenya.

II. She began school at age of eight at Ihithe Primary School and later moved to St. Cecilia Intermediate Primary School-a boarding School at mathari catholic mission. She converted to catholicism taking the name Mary Josephine.

III. She finished number one in 1956 and joined Loreto Girls’ High School in Limuru and graduated in 1959.

IV. She received a scholarship to study at Mount St. Scholastica college(now Benedictine college) in Atchiston, Kansas majored in Biology with minors in chemistry and German.

V. She received her bachelors of science degree in 1964 and studied for masters degree in biology at the university of Pittsburgh and completed her studies in 1966 earning a master of science in Biological sciences.
She was appointed as a research assistant to a professor of Zoology at the University of Nairobi.

Upon return to Kenya her job had been given to someone else hence searched for another job. she was offered a job as research assistant in the microanatomy department of veterinary at the University of Nairobi.

She studied both at Giessen and the University of Munich for her doctorate.

She continued her doctorate program at the University of Nairobi.

She got married to Mwangi Maathai in May 1969.

In 1969 her husband campaigned for a parliamentary seat narrowly losing it.

She was granted a Doctorate of Anatomy in 1971 from the university college of Nairobi making her the first east African woman to earn a PH.D.

She became a senior lecturer in anatomy in 1974, chair of the department of veterinary anatomy in 1976 & associate professor in 1977, she was the first woman to be appointed to these positions.
Contribution of Wangari Maathai

- 1973 – 1980 – Member of Kenya Red Cross
- 1971 - 1978 – member of Kenya association of University women
- 1974 – board member of environment liaison center contribution to UNEP
- 1980s – joined pro-democracy movement (demand for constitutional changes e.g LSK media)
- 1990s – protested KANU’s plan to build a skyscraper at Uhuru park (donors withdrew)
- 1992- joined FORD party – arrested drew international attention
- gave support to group of women release of political prisoners e.g Koigi wa Wamwere, Mirugi Kariuki, Rumba and Kinuthia, Harun Wakaba and Kang’ethe Mungai
- 1993 protested presented petition to Attorney General and camped at Uhuru park on hunger strike (today freedom corner)
- 1993 – jubilee 2000 (advocacy campaign for cancellation of foreign heavy debts)
- Led in fighting against corruption
- Address UN on issues of environment conservation and uplifting peoples standards of living
- Nobel peace prize (2004) and conservation scientist award.
- 1979 – tried a by election in Nyeri – MP – disqualified
- 2002 – Elected MP Tetu constituency under NARC
- 2007 – lost seat
- Died 2011
Contributions and achievements

Activism and political life

1. Became a member and later director of Kenya Red Cross Society in 1973
2. Became the chair of the Environment Liaison Centre
3. She joined the National council of women in Kenya
4. She founded the Envirocare Ltd a business of tree planting to conserve the environment.
5. She aggressively promoted tree planting to restore the environment
6. She founded the Greenbelt movement which championed tree planting countrywide with the idea of creating employment opportunities.

7. The Greenbelt movement expanded its activities outside Kenya leading to the founding of the Pan-African Green Belt Network.

8. The Kenyan Government demanded that the Greenbelt movement be separated from NCWK, of which Wangari stepped down to concentrate with the Green Belt movement.

9. She encouraged women in Kenya to plant tree nurseries to enhance tree planting in the countryside.
10. she has been an environmental activist. She protested against privatization of public lands especially forest
11. She led processions of tree planting and protests against destruction of forests e.g. shamba system
12. She has been an activist for human rights
13. The In 1998 she launced Jubilee 2000 Africa Campaign, which seeks cancellation of the unpayable backlog debts of the poor countries in Africa by the year
14. In 2006 she was one of the eight flag bearers at the 2006 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony
15. She also endorsed the Forests Now Declaration, calling for new market-based mechanisms to protect forests
Political life

a) She was a strong advocate for women
b) She was an activist for human rights
c) She championed for democracy & constitutional reforms
d) In 1992 she worked to unite all opposition political parties and promote free and fair elections in Kenya.
e) She protested against privatization of public land & be given to political supporters in 1998.
f) She attempted to run for the parliamentary and presidential election 1997 of which she lost the elections.

g) In 2002 Maathai was elected to parliament with the National Rainbow Coalition, which she represented.

h) She has been Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife since 2003.

Achievements

Nobel Peace prize winner 2004
1) The Nobel Peace Prize Winner 2004
Maathai stood up courageously against the former oppressive regime in Kenya” the Norwegian Nobel Committee said in a statement announcing her as the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner. “Her unique forms of action have contributed to drawing attention to political oppression - nationally and internationally. She has served as inspiration for many in the fight for democratic rights and has especially encouraged women to better their situation.

2) A mother of three children

3) A highly educated woman as a professor, a veterinary doctor, a lecturer at university of Nairobi.
4) An activist for human rights and contributed in the drafting of the bill of rights in new constitution
5) She founded the green Belt movement
6) Founder of the Pan-African Green Belt Network
7) She also endorsed the Forests Now Declaration, calling for new market-based mechanisms to protect forests
8) On 28 March 2005, she was elected as the first president of the African Union's Economic, Social and Cultural Council
9) She won the Nobel Peace Price of 2004
10) She represented her constituency since 2002 to 2007
Challenges

1. In 1977 left her husband left her and later in 1979 She was divorced by her husband i.e. Mwangi Mathai claiming that she was too strong minded for a woman and he was unable to control her.
2. She suffered financial setbacks as a result of the divorce
3. She was accused by Moi’s government for incitements
4. She was several times arrested and jailed and sometimes released on bail
5. During the hunger strike at Uhuru park in 1992 pressurizing for the release of political prisoners she was knocked unconsciously and other three women and got hospitalized.
Awards & Honours

1) 1984: Right Livelihood Award (a.k.a. "Alternative Nobel Prize")
2) 1986: Better World Society Award
3) 1987: Global 500 Roll of Honour
4) 1991: Goldman Environmental Prize
5) 1991: The Hunger Project's Africa Prize for Leadership
6) 1993: Edinburgh Medal (for "Outstanding contribution to Humanity through Science")
7) 1993: Jane Addams Leadership Award
8) 1993: Benedictine College Offeramus Medal
9) 1994: The Golden Ark Award
10) 2001: The Juliet Hollister Award
11) 2003: Global Environment Award, *World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations*
12) 2004: Conservation Scientist Award from *Columbia University*
13) 2004: J. Sterling Morton Award
14) 2004: *Petra Kelly Prize*
15) 2004: *Sophie Prize*
16) 2004: *Nobel Peace Prize*
17) 2006: *Légion d'honneur*
18) 2007: *World Citizenship Award*
19) 2007: *Indira Gandhi Prize*
20) 2007: Cross of the Order of St. Benedict
21) 2008: The Elizabeth Blackwell Award from *Hobart and William Smith Colleges*
22) 2009: *NAACP Image Award - Chairman's Award* (with *Al Gore*)
23) 2009: Grand Cordon of the *Order of the Rising Sun* of *Japan*
24) 2011: *The Nichols-Chancellor's Medal* awarded by *Vanderbilt University*
Life after the Nobel Peace Prize
On 28 March 2005, Maathai was elected the first president of the African Union's Economic, Social and Cultural Council.

Was appointed a goodwill ambassador for an initiative aimed at protecting the Congo Basin Forest Ecosystem.

In 2006 she was one of the eight flag bearers at the 2006 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony.

2006 she was awarded an honorary doctorate by and gave the commencement address at Connecticut College.

In November 2006, she spearheaded the United Nations Billion Tree Campaign.

In January 2007 Maathai hosted the Global Young Greens conference in Nairobi.

On January 28, 2007, Maathai returned to Benedictine College for the first time in over 15 years and spoke to the students at her alma mater.

She also endorsed the Forests Now Declaration, calling for new market-based mechanisms to protect forests.
The Late Professor Wangari Maathai
Died on 25 September 2011 (2011-09-25) (aged 71)
KCSE SAMPLE QUESTIONS