

# *A Political History of the Gusii Community of Kenya*

As told through their elected representatives, 1961-2021

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December 2021

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## Limitations

- Excludes Local Government throughout.



# Introductory Note

- The Gusii community are the densely populated Bantu-speaking community of peoples living between the Nilotic Luo, Maasai and Kalenjin in the small fertile highland area known from colonial times as **Kisii District**.
- The only material change to the district was the addition of a small ex-white highlands settlement scheme area around independence (known as Borabu).
- A smaller number of Gusii also migrated in colonial times to the plantations of the white highlands around Kericho and Bomet
- The Gusii region names have changed a couple of times – first with the split of Kisii into Kisii and Nyamira Districts, then the addition of Gucha district and its later reabsorption into Kisii district with the new 2010 Constitution
- Every elected representative at MP level and above in the Gusii counties has been ethnically Gusii during these sixty years. No “outsiders” have been elected and (as far as I can see) none have stood, the region being ethnically homogenous and with a strong and distinct cultural identity.
- No Gusii was elected to any senior political position outside the region until 2013.

# Gusii Political History

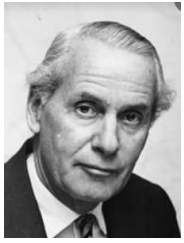
A history of elected Gusii MPs

In 1957 and 1958, the first elections for African representatives to the Kenyan Legislative Council took place. Kisii District was part of the large single constituency of South Nyanza and was represented by a Luo

Our story begins in 1961, when the first full nationwide universal suffrage polls took place, where Kisii had its own constituency for the first time.

# Gusii Political History

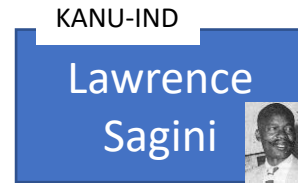
A history of elected Gusii MPs  
1961: The Kenyatta Election



Governor Ronald Renison



Ronald Ngala (KADU)



Kisii

Ngala forms minority government

# Meru Political History

April 1962: Coalition Government



Kenyatta  
(KANU)



Kisii

Sagini appointed minister in coalition government



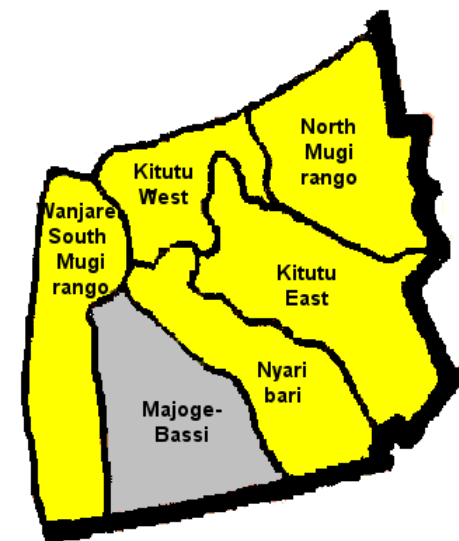
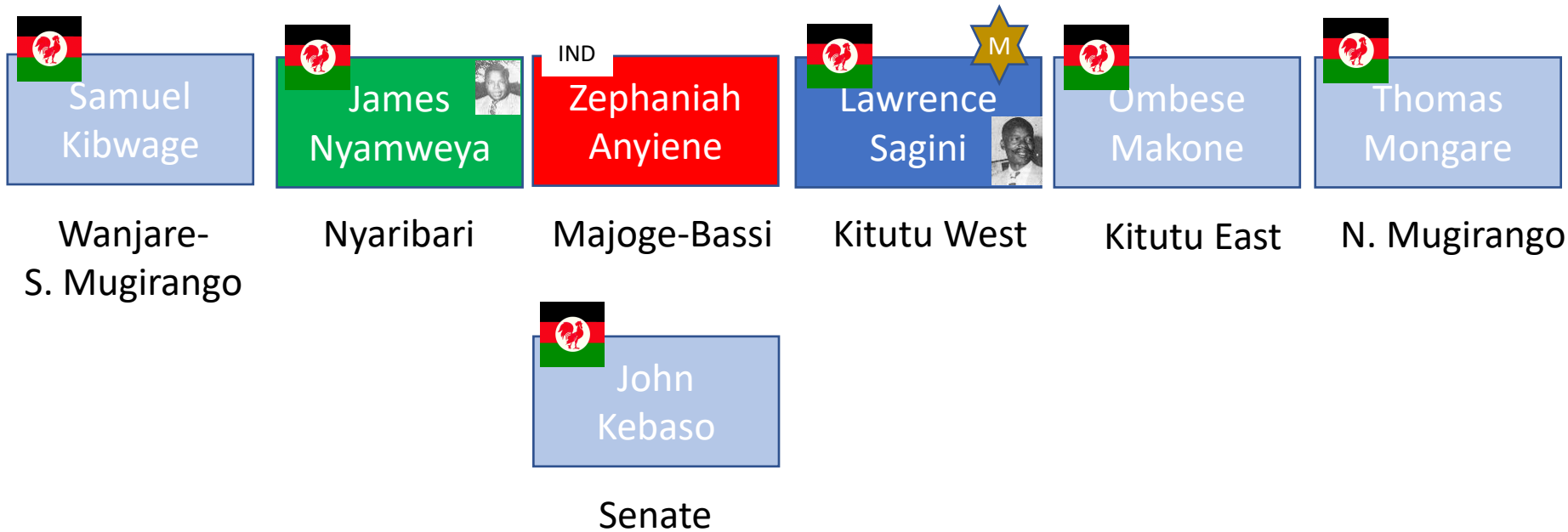
Governor Kenyatta, Odinga, Mboya  
Macdonald (KANU)

# Gusii Political History

## 1963: For Self-Government



Ronald Ngala  
(KADU)



KANU wins 6 seats, plus one pro-KANU independent. No KADU elected. Kenyatta reappoints Sagini as the "Gusii Minister"

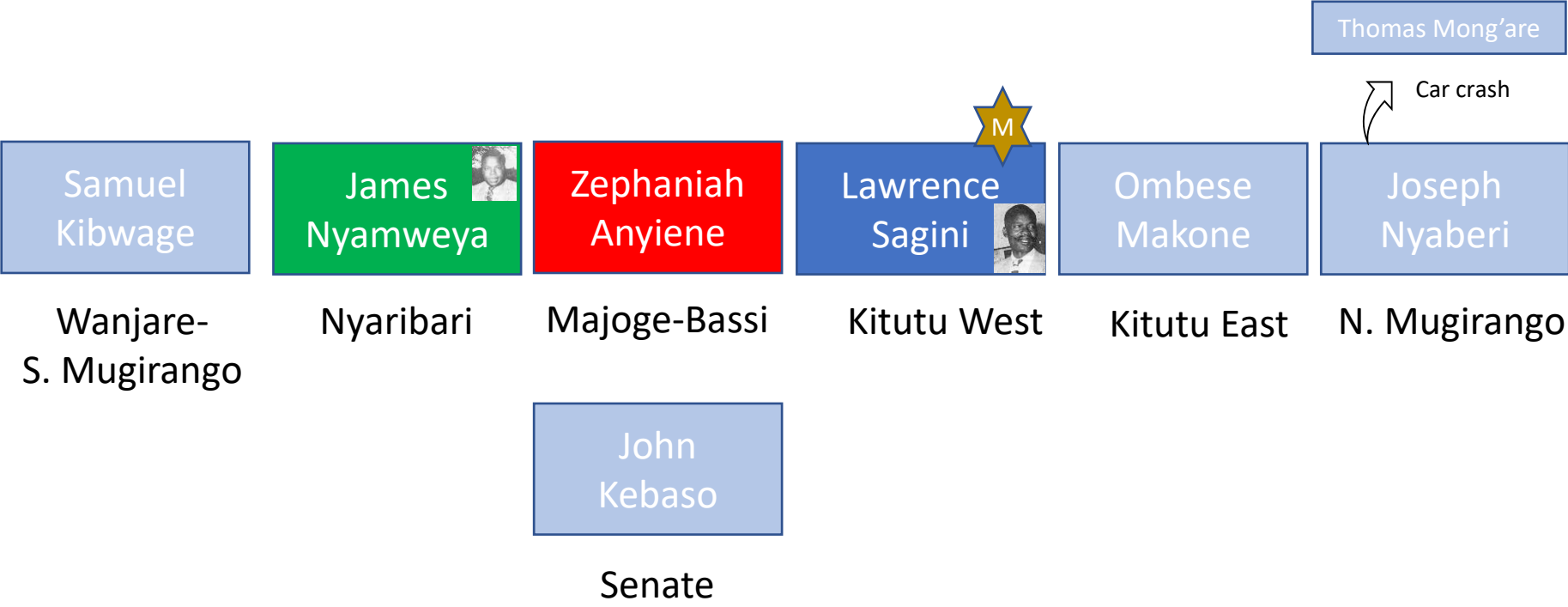


# Gusii Political History



One Party State  
(Part 1):  
1964-66

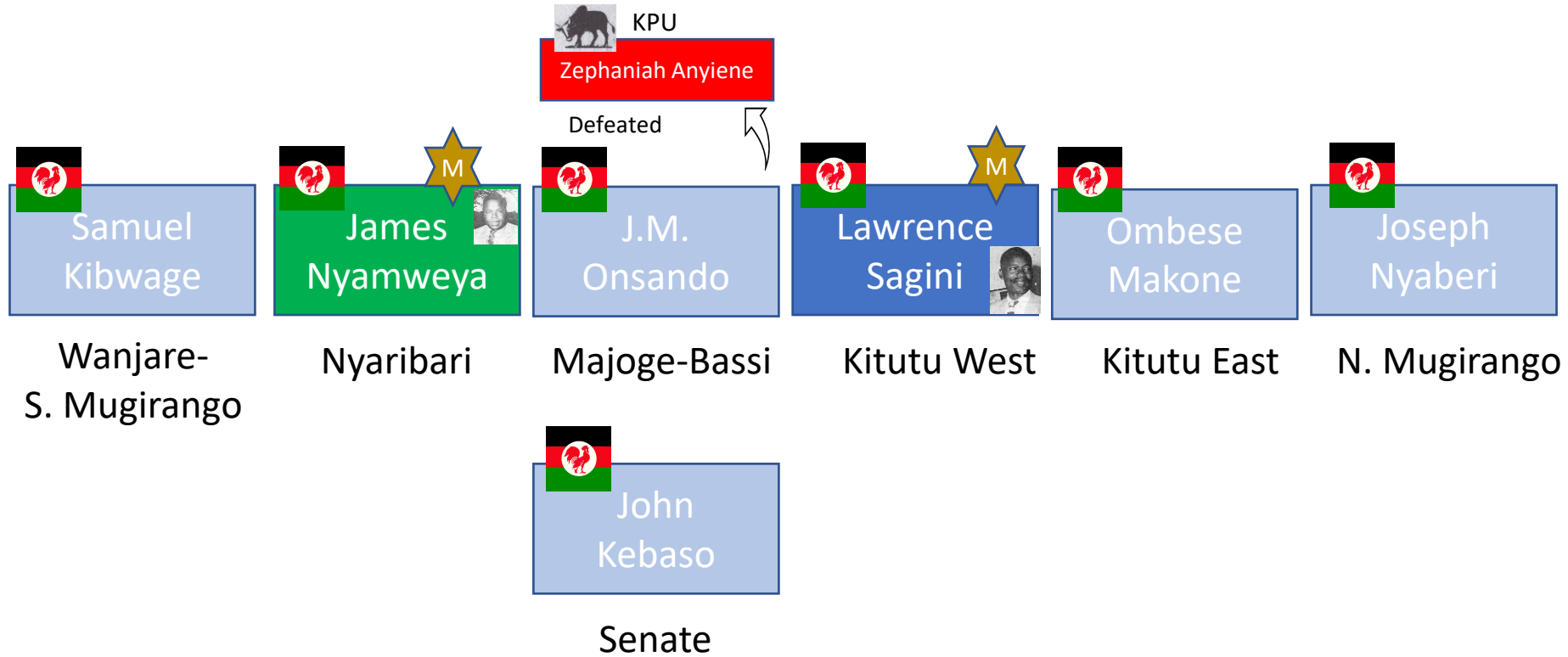
## 1965: By-election





# Gusii Political History

## 1966: Little General Election- KPU vs KANU



Dec 1965 Nyamweya (Abagetutu) appointed second Gusii minister, then little general election evicts Anyiene, who had defected to join Odinga in the new KPU



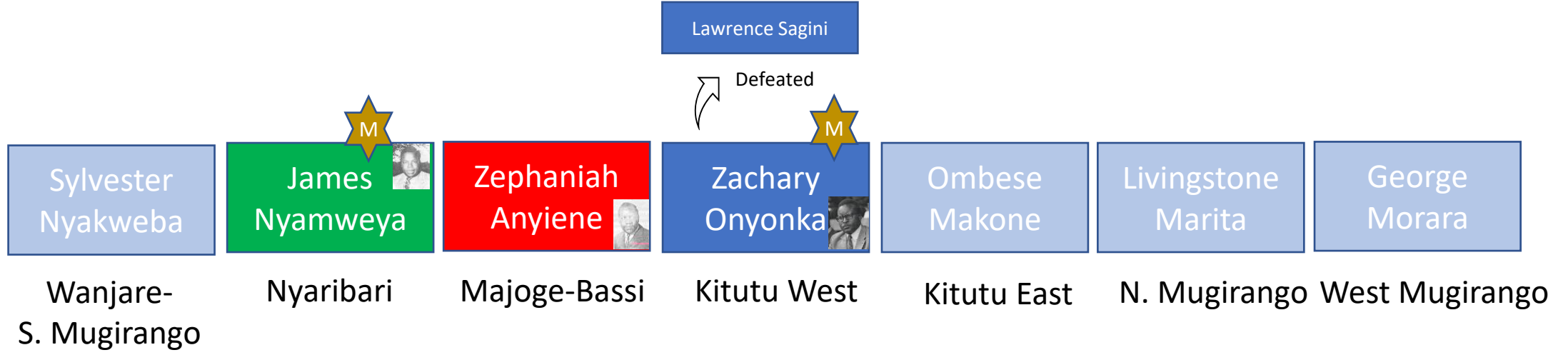


# Gusii Political History



One Party State  
(Part 2):  
1969-82

1969



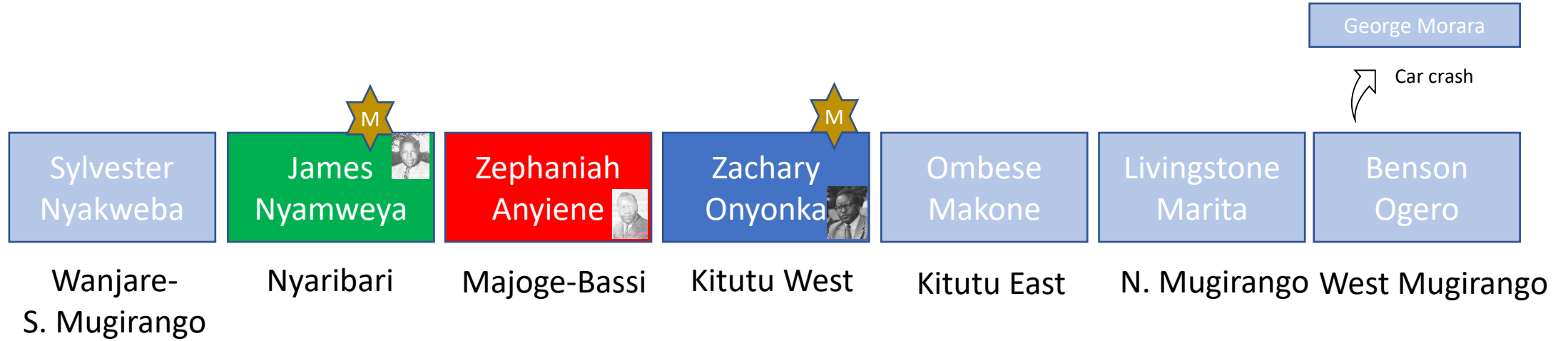
KPU Banned, return of one-party state. Nyamweya re-elected. Sagini defeated and Onyonka appointed to cabinet in his stead



# Gusii Political History



1970: By-election

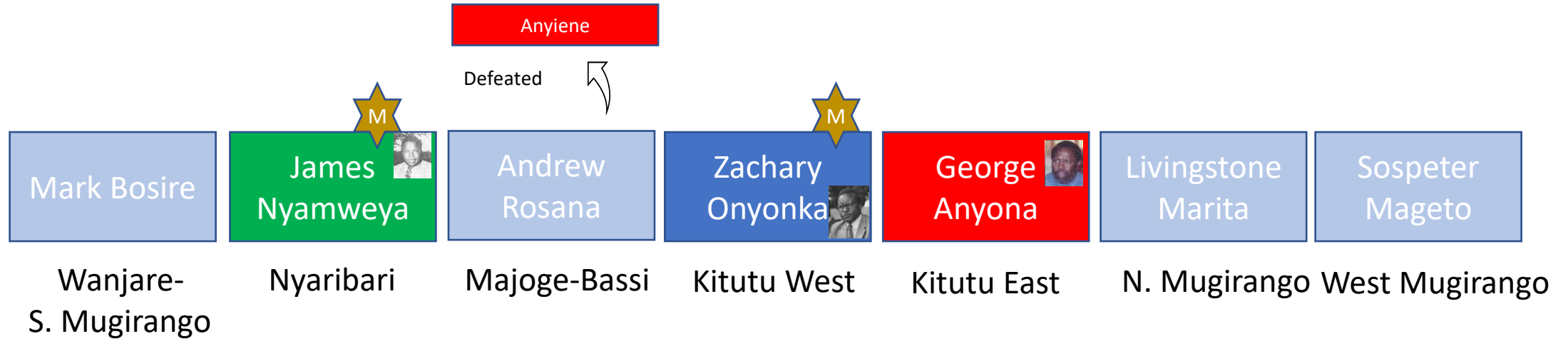




# Gusii Political History



1974



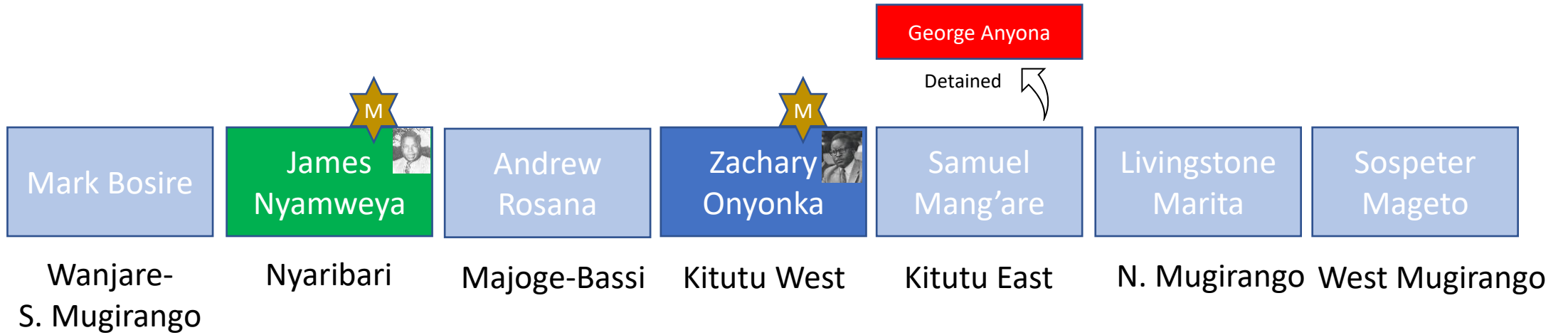
Little change. Nyamweya and Onyonka re-elected and reappointed ministers, Anyona elected



# Gusii Political History



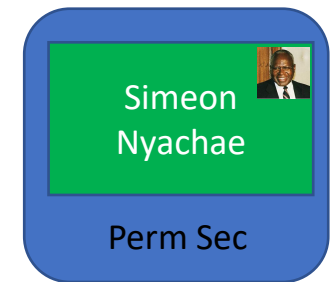
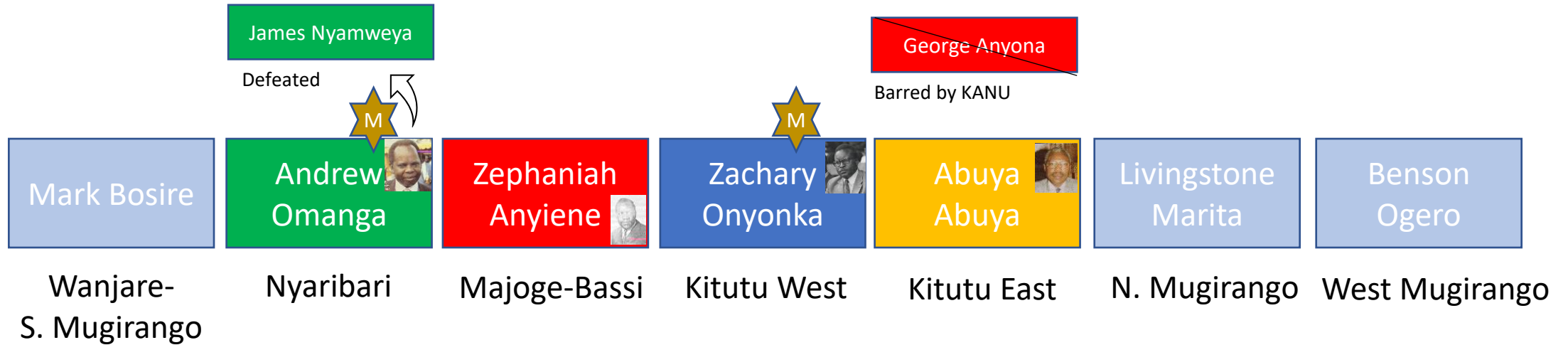
1977





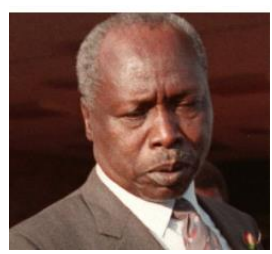
# Gusii Political History

1979



Key Gusii Govt officers

Moi's new broom sweeps away Nyamweya. Onyonka remains minister, Anyona barred but his cousin wins in his stead. Simeon Nyachae, influential administrator, moves from PC to Permanent secretary and soon secretary to the cabinet

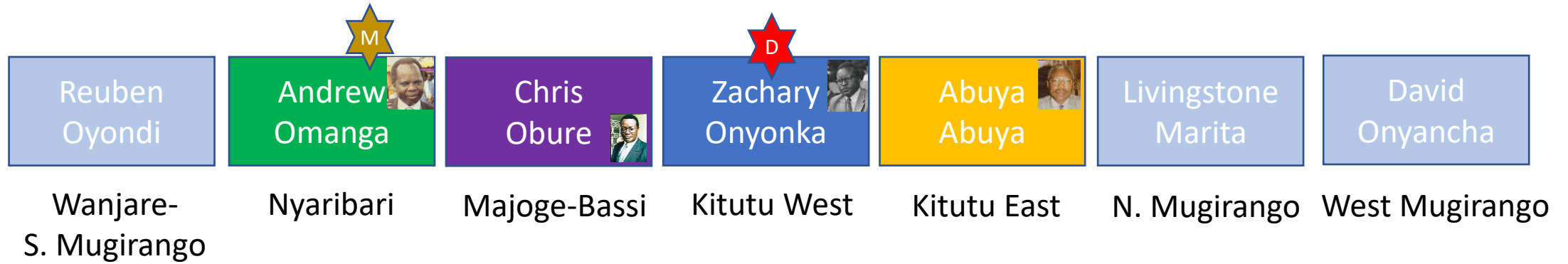


# Gusii Political History



One Party State  
(Part 3): De Jure  
1982-91

1983



Simeon Nyachae  
Perm Sec

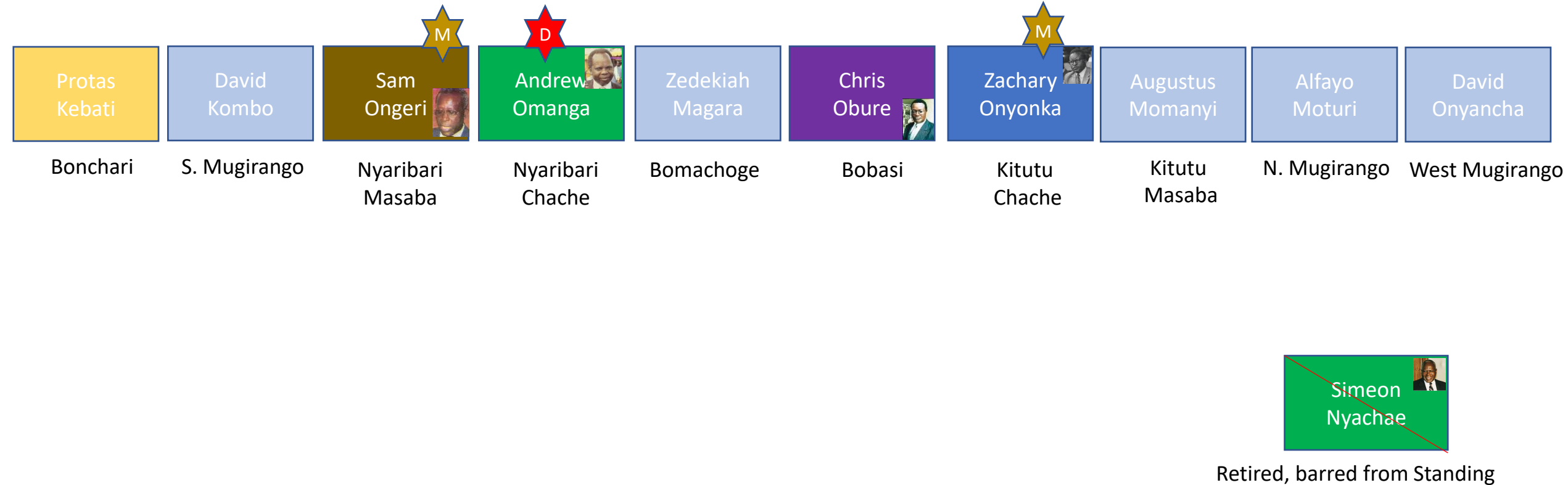


Omanga re-elected and reappointed. Onyonka dropped after a shooting incident



# Gusii Political History

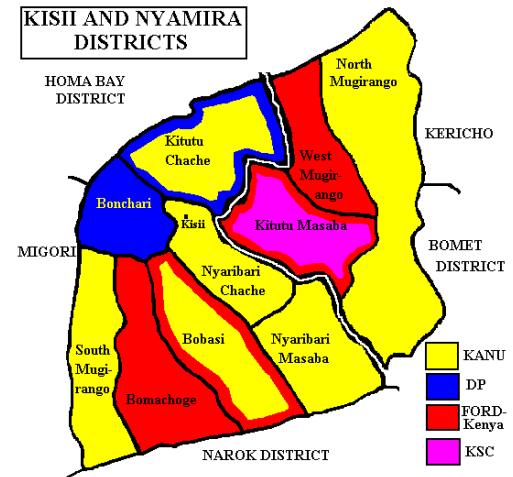
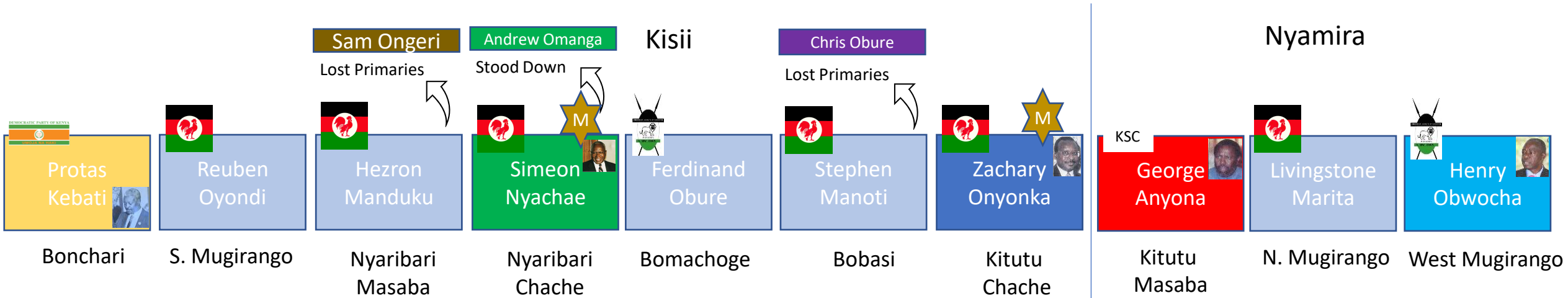
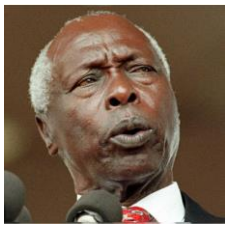
## 1988 (Public Queue Voting)



Constituency redistribution 1986 added 3 seats. Queue voting used, highly rigged elections . Omanga dropped as an ally of Simeon Nyachae, why retired to enter politics but was barred from standing by the efforts of his opponents (including Biwott)

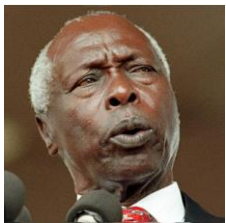
# Gusii Political History

Dec 1992



Kisii and Nyamira Districts split. Queue voting abolished 1991. Multi-party democracy returns Dec 1991. Dec 1992 elections KANU wins 6 of 10 seats in Kisii, mostly due to Nyachae, who is appointed a Minister by Moi, alongside Onyonka. Anyona returns in his own personal party.






# Gusii Political History

## 1993: By-election


### Kisii

### Nyamira

Defected & Re-elected



Protas  
Kebati



Bonchari





Reuben  
Oyondi

S. Mugirango




Hezron  
Manduku


Nyaribari  
Masaba

Simeon  
Nyachae



Nyaribari  
Cache



Ferdinand  
Obure

Bomachoge



Stephen  
Manoti

Bobasi




Zachary  
Onyonka



Kitutu  
Cache



George  
Anyona



Kitutu Masaba



Livingstone  
Marita

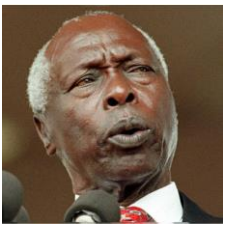
N. Mugirango



Henry  
Obwocha



West Mugirango



# Gusii Political History

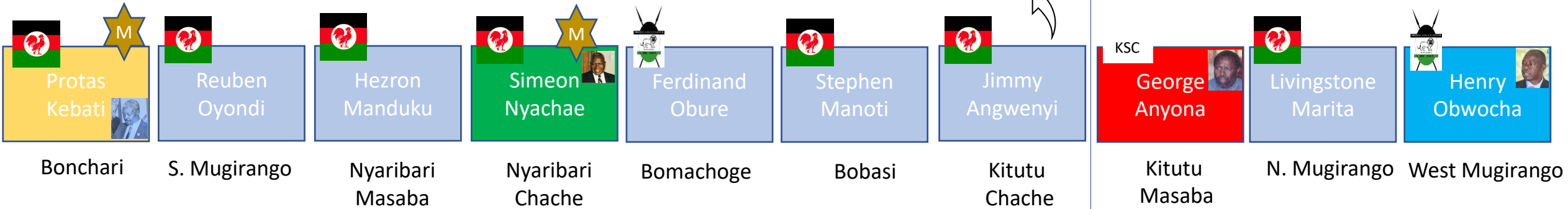
Jan 1997: Onyonka dies, by-election

Kisii

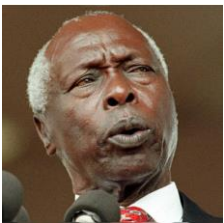
Zachary Onyonka

Died

Nyamira



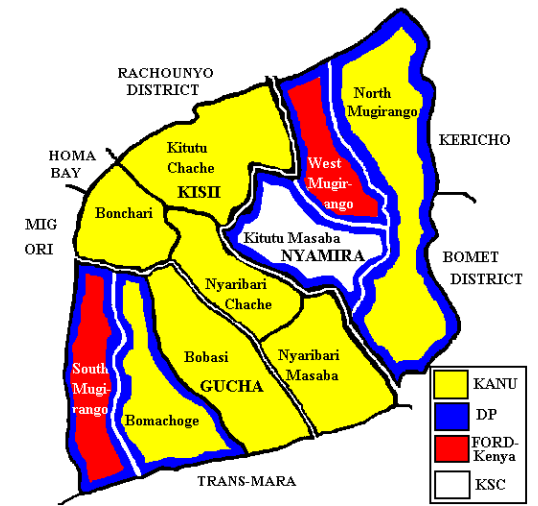
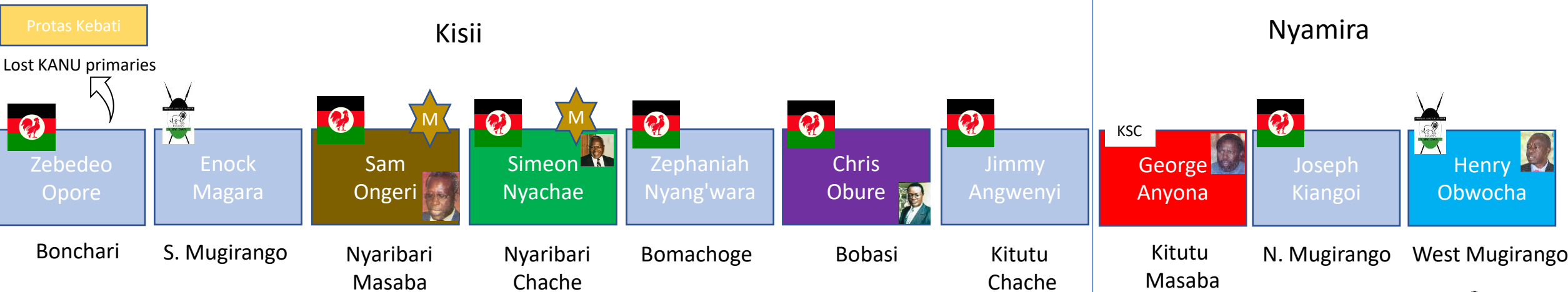
By election to replace Onyonka. Kebati appointed Minister Jan 1997 to weaken Nyachae



# Gusii Political History



## Dec 1997 General Election



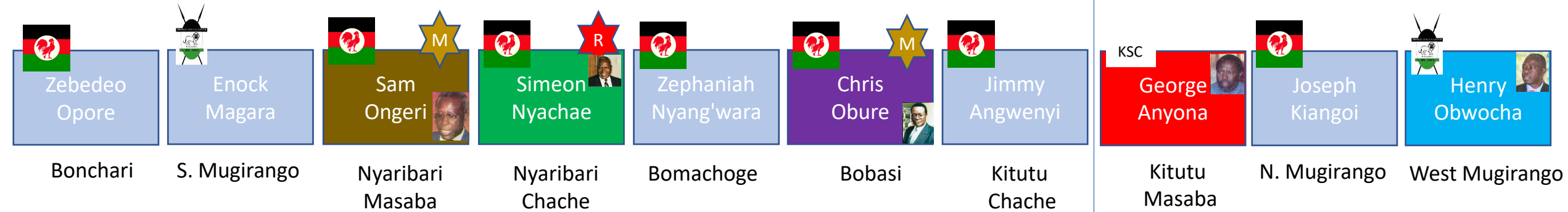
Little changes, KANU now wins 7 of 10 seats. Nyachae wins but Ongeri returns as second Gusii minister, also from the Nyaribari clans.

# Gusii Political History

1999

Kisii

Nyamira



1999 Nyachae resigns as Minister, informally joins opposition along with several allies. Obure replaces him

# Gusii Political History

2001: By-election



Kisii

Nyamira




Brother elected to replace him



Zebedeo Opore



James Magara






Sam Ongeru



Simeon Nyachae



Zephaniah Nyang'wara



Chris Obure



Jimmy Angwenyi



George Anyona



Joseph Kiangoi



Henry Obwocha

Bonchari

S. Mugirango

Nyaribari Masaba

Nyaribari Chache

Bomachoge

Bobasi

Kitutu Chache

Kitutu Masaba

N. Mugirango

West Mugirango

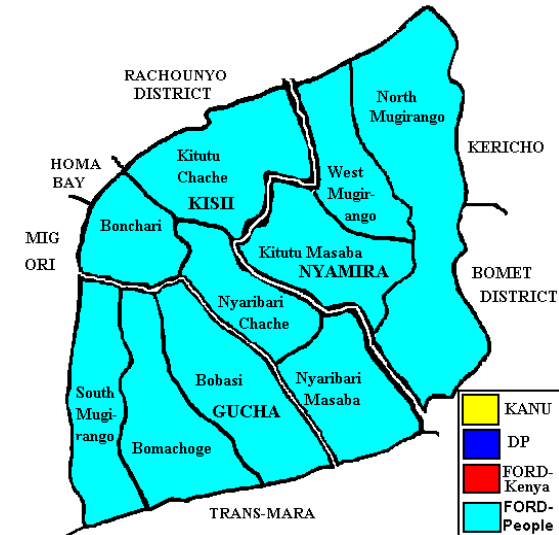
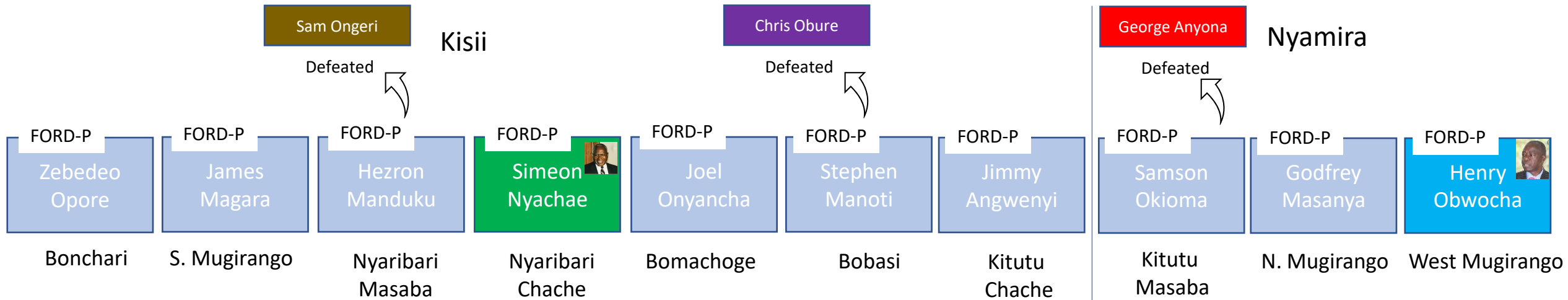




# Gusii Political History



## 2002: Moi's Retirement, Kibaki Elected



Kibaki defeats Uhuru Kenyatta, but FORD People led by Nyachae (who loses the Presidential poll outside his community) take all 10 Gusii seats in parliament and presidency. No Gusii government members as FORD-People are initially in opposition.

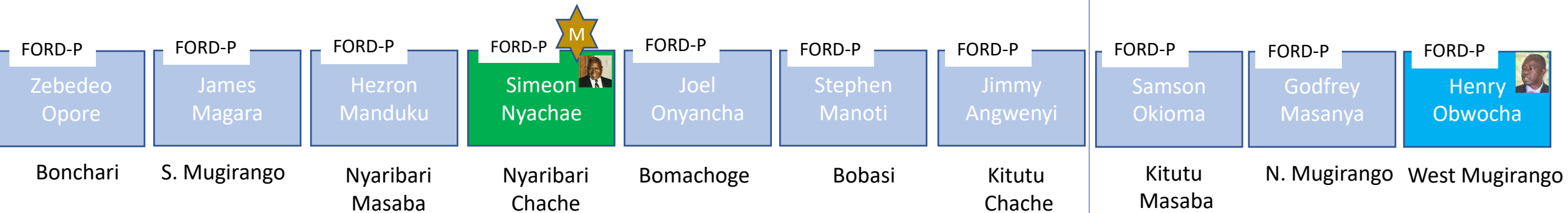


# Gusii Political History

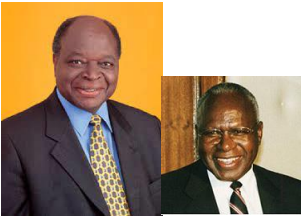
## 2004: Messy Coalition

Kisii

Nyamira



2004 Nyachae joins Kibaki in his first ad hoc coalition government

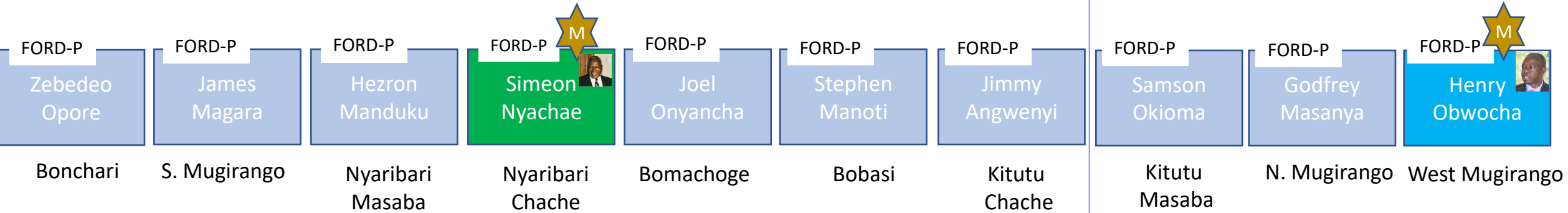


# Gusii Political History

2005: Orange victory and government rebuilding

Kisii

Nyamira



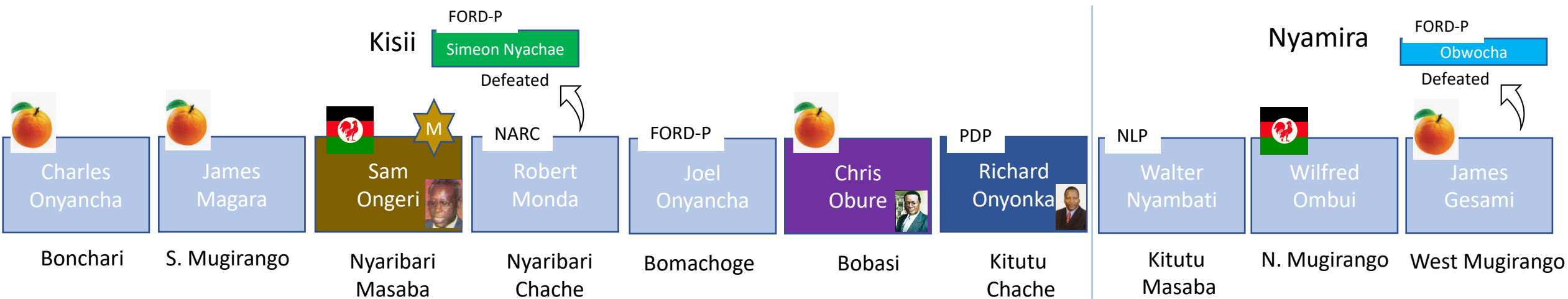
After the sacking of the entire government, during its reconstruction Henry Obwocha added as Minister to cement FORD-P support.



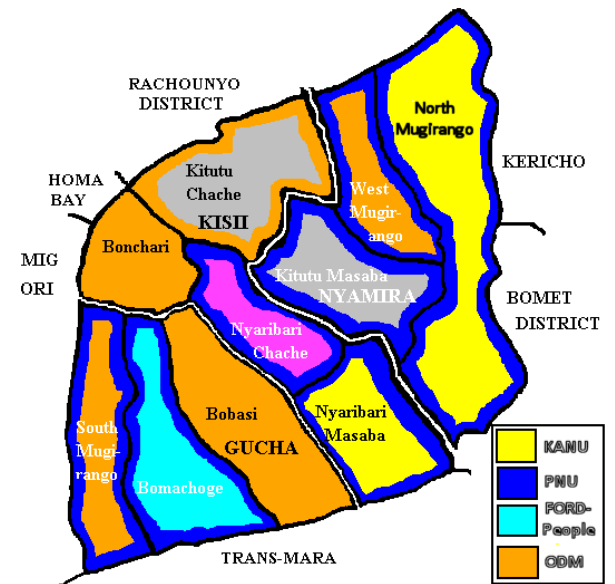


# Gusii Political History

## 2007: General Election and Subsequent Chaos



FORD-people backs Kibaki. ODM largest party but Gusii vote splinters. Kibaki wins 7/10 seats, but two elected ODM MPs. Nyachae is defeated and retires from politics. Ongeri and Obure return. Zachary's son Richard Onyonka elected MP

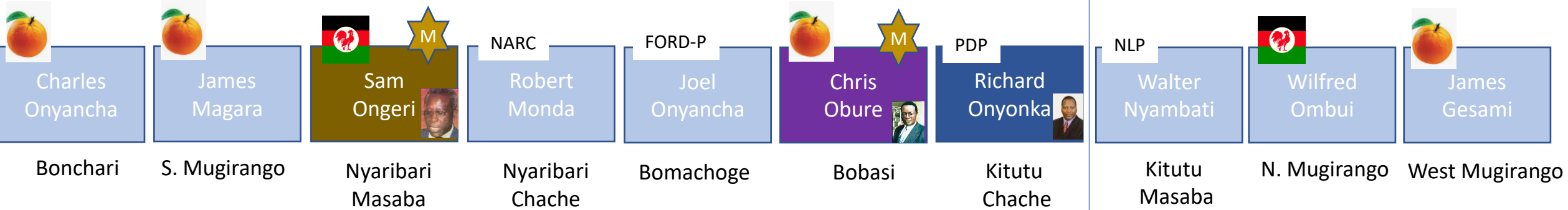


# Gusii Political History

2008: Grand Coalition

Kisii

Nyamira



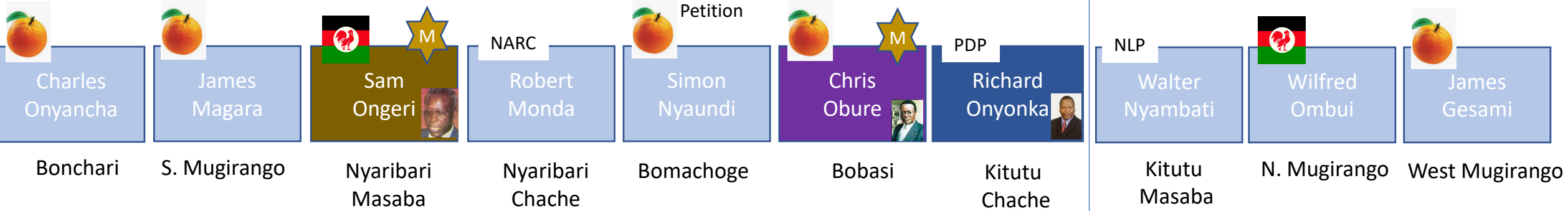
Obure joins Onger as Minister in the grand coalition

# Gusii Political History

2009

Kisii

Nyamira

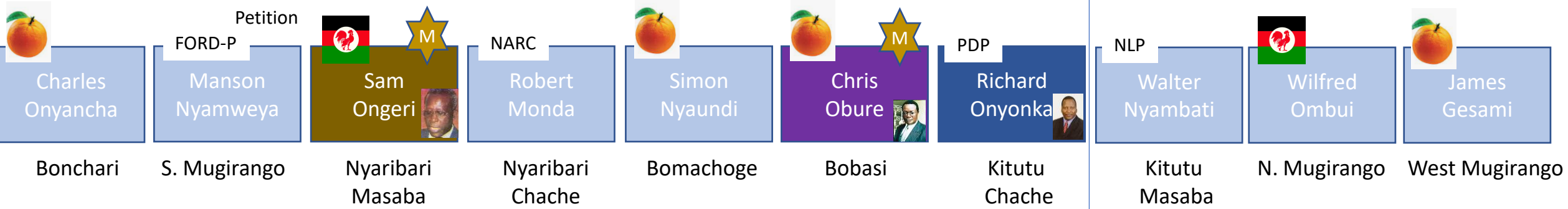


# Gusii Political History

2010

Kisii

Nyamira



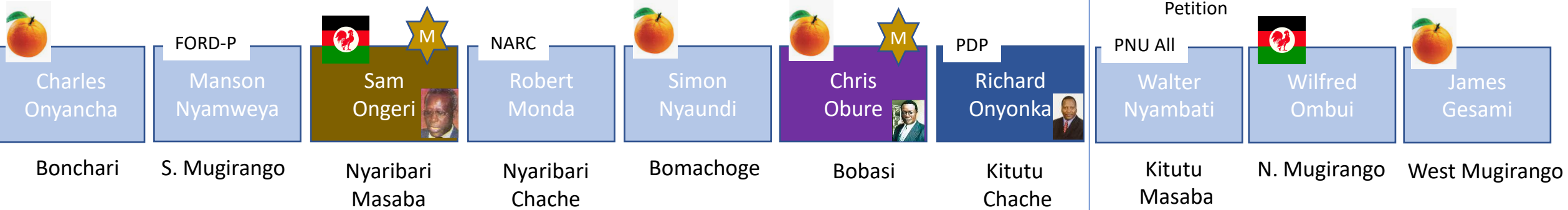
# Gusii Political History

2011: bBy-election

Kisii

Nyamira

Petition



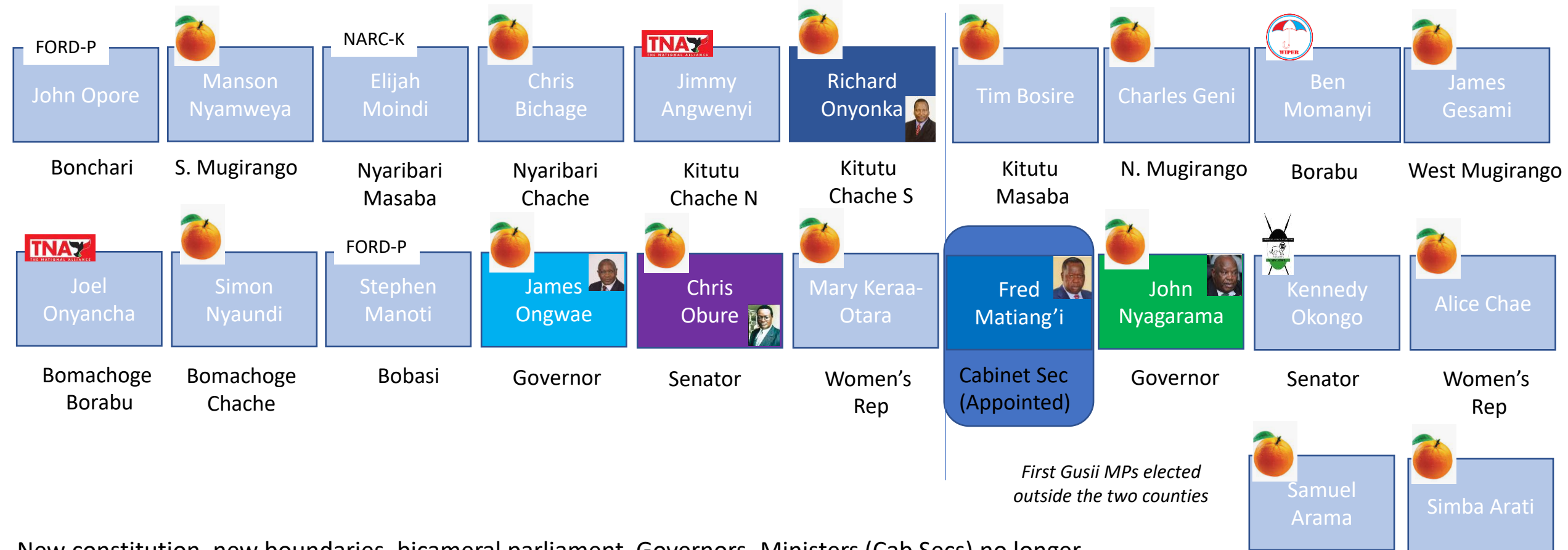


# Gusii Political History

2013: New Constitution

Kisii

Nyamira



*First Gusii MPs elected outside the two counties*

Nakuru Tn W      Dagoretti North

New constitution, new boundaries, bicameral parliament, Governors. Ministers (Cab Secs) no longer elected MPs. Odinga loses presidential election but wins most of the Abagusii vote.

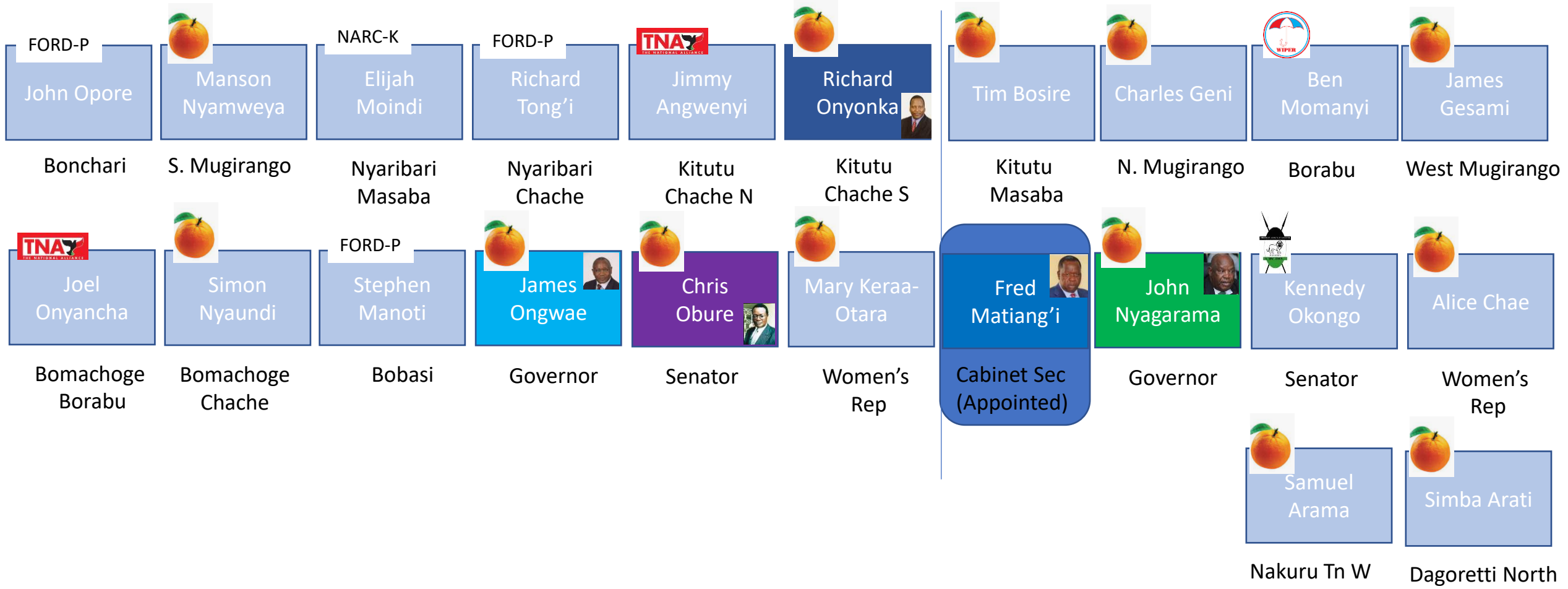


# Gusii Political History

2013-14: By elections

## Kisii

## Nyamira



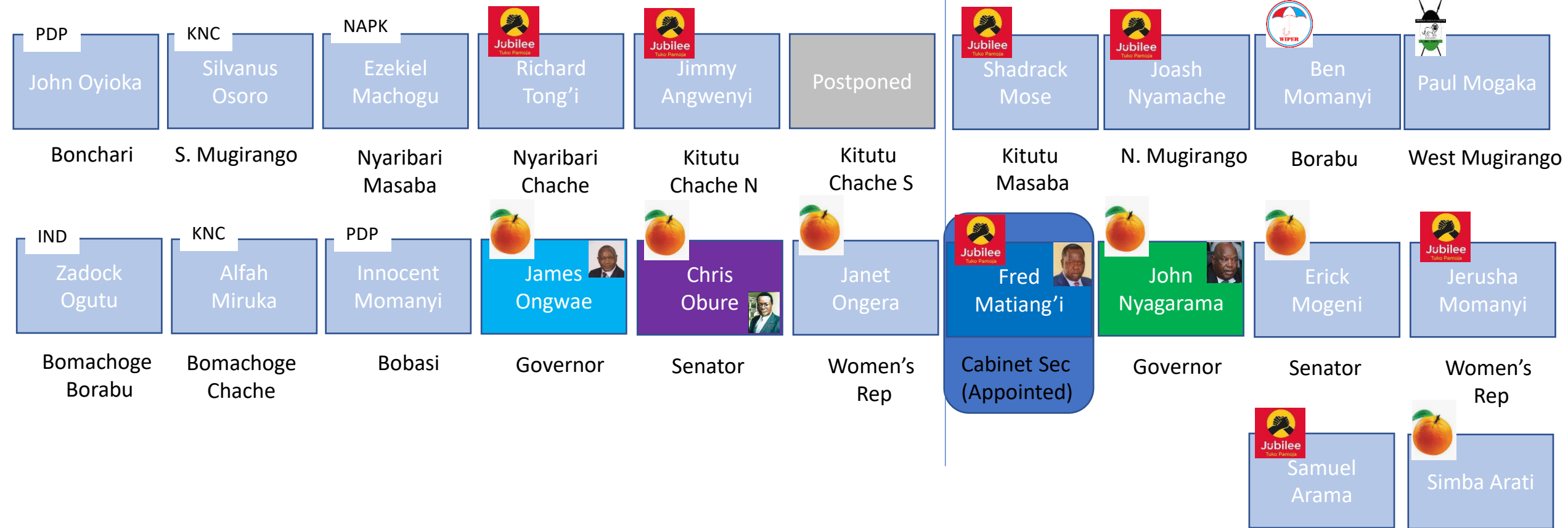


# Gusii Political History

2017: Second General Elections under new constitution

## Kisii

## Nyamira



FORD-People dissolved to join Jubilee. Odinga loses presidential election but wins most of the Abagusii vote. Gusii parl vote scatters.



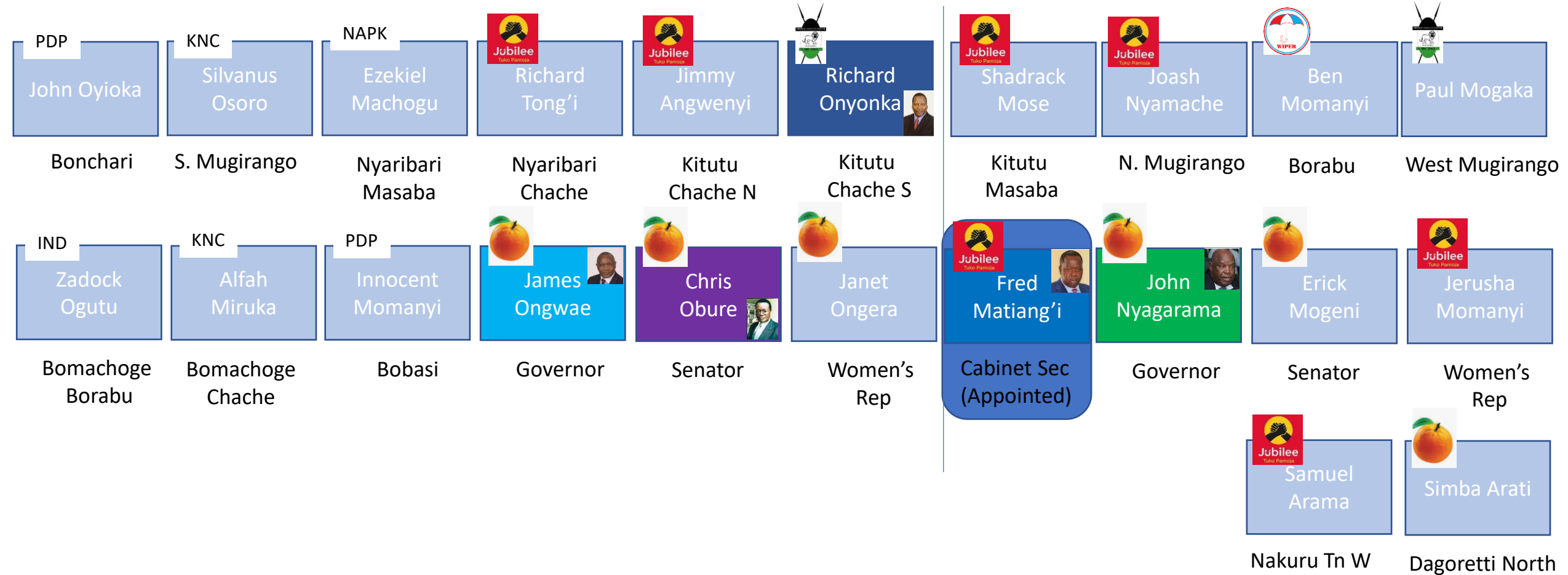


# Gusii Political History

2017: By election

## Kisii

## Nyamira






















# Gusii Political History

2021: By-election

## Kisii

## Nyamira

Kisii						Nyamira			
 Pavel Omieke	KNC Silvanus Osoro	NAPK Ezekiel Machogu	 Richard Tong'i	 Jimmy Angwenyi	 Richard Onyonka	 Shadrack Mose	 Joash Nyamache	 Ben Momanyi	 Paul Mogaka
Bonchari	S. Mugirango	Nyaribari Masaba	Nyaribari Chache	Kitutu Chache N	Kitutu Chache S	Kitutu Masaba	N. Mugirango	Borabu	West Mugirango
IND Zadock Ogutu	KNC Alfah Miruka	PDP Innocent Momanyi	 James Ongwae	 Chris Obure	 Janet Ongera	 Fred Mating'i	 Died	 Erick Mogeni	 Jerusha Momanyi
Bomachoge Borabu	Bomachoge Chache	Bobasi	Governor	Senator	Women's Rep	Cabinet Sec (Appointed)	Governor	Senator	Women's Rep
							 Samuel Arama	 Simba Arati	

2020 Nyagarama also died and was replaced by his (ANC) Deputy

# From fact to opinion

- The next image captures my understanding of the current political alignment of this group of elected (and appointed) individuals as of December 2021.

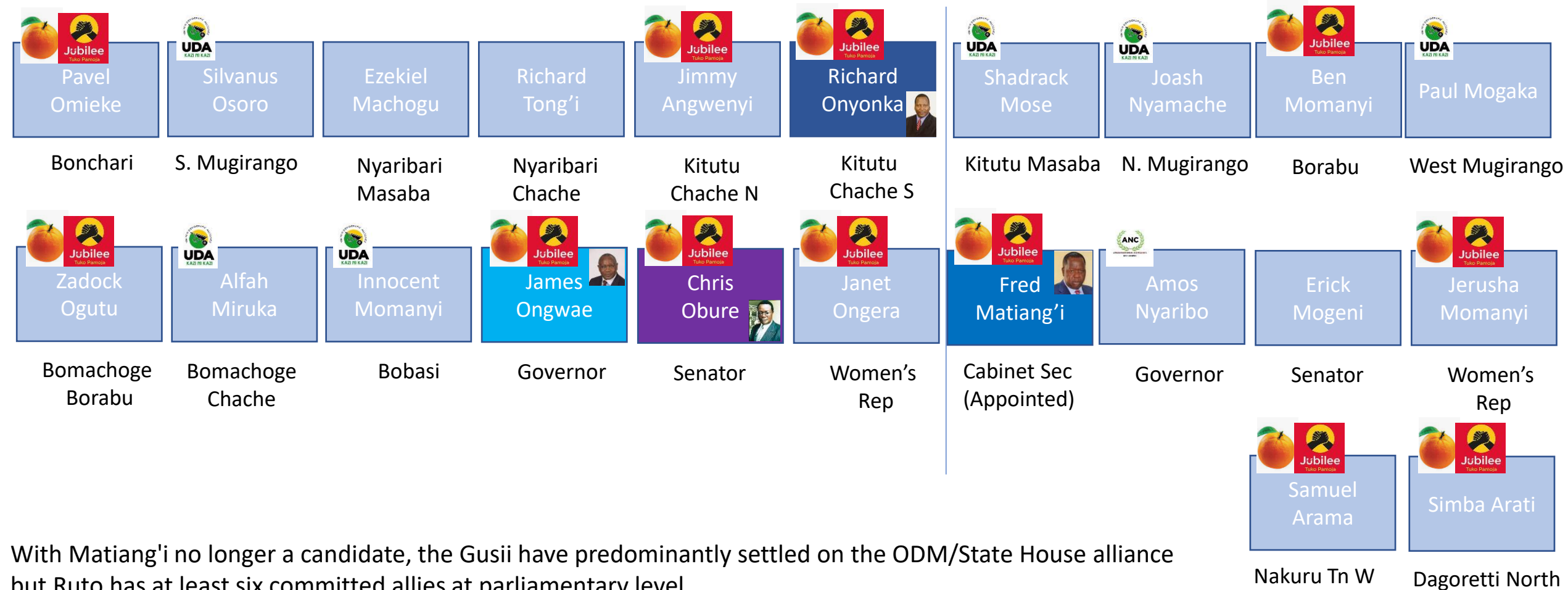


# Gusii Political History

2021: Current estimated alliances

Kisii

Nyamira



With Mtiang'i no longer a candidate, the Gusii have predominantly settled on the ODM/State House alliance but Ruto has at least six committed allies at parliamentary level.