

A Political History of the Maasai and Samburu Communities of Kenya

As told through their elected representatives, 1957-2021

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January 2022

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Limitations

- Excludes Local Government throughout.

Maasai Political History

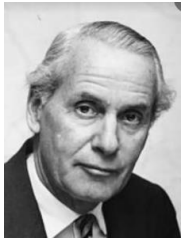
A history of elected Maasai and Samburu MPs

The Maasai are nomadic Maa-speaking pastoralists living - since the forced relocations of the colonial period - mostly in Kajiado and Narok districts at independence. A few Maasai remain in Nakuru and further north, particularly in Laikipia. Near to Nairobi, "Maasailand" (Kajiado and Narok) has seen significant social, economic and demographic change and is a major tourism centre.

The Samburu are a sub-tribe of the Maasai, Maa-speaking, but living in the large far northern arid area of Samburu district.

Maasai Political History

1958: LegCo Enlarged



Governor
Renison

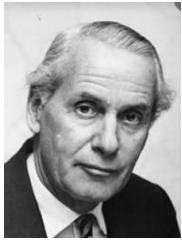


Central Rift

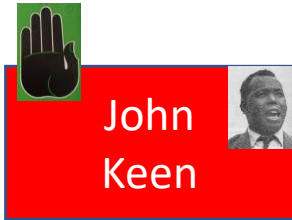
In 1958 the second tranche of Africa elected member seats includes the new seat of Central Rift. (Purko section) Maasai politician Justus ole Tipis is elected as the first Maasai representative. The Samburu remain part of the North Rift Valley seat represented by Daniel arap Moi

Maasai Political History

Feb 1961: The Kenyatta Election



Governor Renison
Ronald Ngala (KADU)



Kajiado



Narok

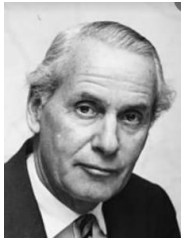


Northern Province West

In the 1961 “Kenyatta election”, Tipis (KADU) is re-elected in Narok and joined by John Keen (also KADU) for Kajiado. In the North, the Northern Province seat is won by a Turkana, defeating a Samburu candidate. Tipis becomes a parliamentary secretary in the minority KADU government

Maasai Political History

1961: Defection



Governor Renison
Ronald Ngala (KADU)

John Keen

Kajiado

Justus ole Tipis

Narok

Peter Areman (T)

Northern Province West

John Konchellah

National MP

March 1961 John Konchellah (Uasin Gishu Maasai section) is elected by the Assembly as special MP and becomes a parliamentary secretary in December 1961. In June 1961 Keen defects to KANU.



Maasai Political History

Apr 1962-63: Coalition Government

Governor Ronald Ngala
Renison (KADU)

John Keen

Kajiado

Justus ole
Tipis

Narok

Peter
Areman (T)

Northern Province West

IND
John
Konchellah

National MP

In the coalition government of May 1962, Keen is made parliamentary secretary. In Jan 1963 Tipis is briefly made (KADU) Social Services minister, in the run up to the independence elections. Konchellah is sacked and expelled from KADU in March 1963.

Maasai Political History



Governor Kenyatta, Odinga, Mboya
Macdonald (KANU)



Ngei (APP) Ngala (KADU)

1963 For Self-Government



Kajiado

Narok

Samburu



Moved and lost



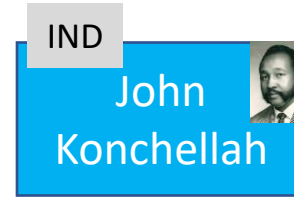
Kajiado



Kajiado Senate



Narok East



Narok West



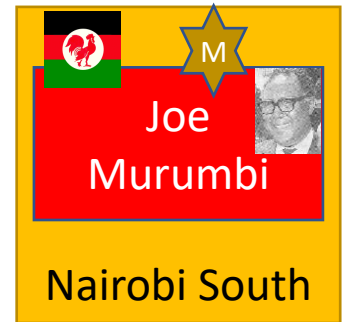
Narok Senate



Korossi



Samburu Senate



Nairobi South



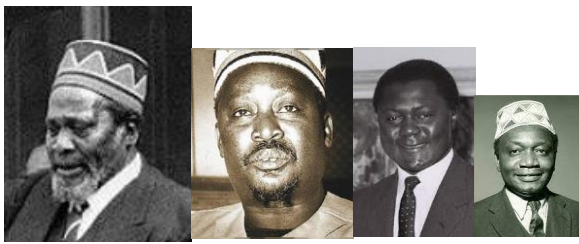
KADU wins all seats except for one KANU-aligned independent, Konchellah. Stanley Oloitipitip (Kisongo Maasai section) is elected as Kajiado MP. Keen sacrificially moves to stand in Trans-Nzoia and is defeated. The Goal-Maasai Joe Murumbi is elected in Nairobi South and subsequently made Minister in Kenyatta's government

Maasai Political History

Dec 1964: Republican Constitution



One Party State
(Part 1):
1964-66



Kenyatta, Odinga, Mboya
(KANU)

Kajiado



Kajiado



Kajiado Senate



Elected to Central
Leg Assembly Aug 63

Narok



Narok East



Narok West



Narok Senate

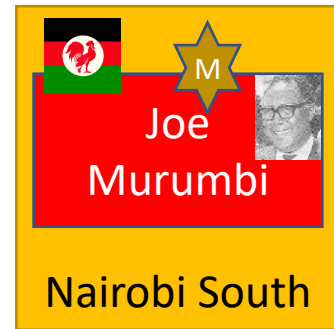
Samburu



Korossi



Samburu Senate



KADU folds and join KANU. Republic established with Kenyatta as President. No change otherwise.
Keen nominated late 1963 to East Africa Common Service Organisation Assembly.



Maasai Political History

1966: Little General Election - KPU vs KANU



Kajiado




Stanley Oloitipitip 


Kajiado



Godfrey ole Kipury

Kajiado Senate



John Keen 

Narok



Justus ole Tipis 

Narok East



John Konchellah 

Narok West



Philip Lemein

Narok Senate

Samburu




Paul Rurumban


Korossi



John Lenayiarra

Samburu Senate



VP
Joe Murumbi 

Nairobi South

KPU launch has no material effect here - no defections and no by-elections, but Murumbi is chosen to succeed Odinga as Vice President. Also Tipis elected as KANU National Treasurer in May 1966, a role he holds continuously until 1988.

Maasai Political History

1966-67



Kajiado



Kajiado



Kajiado Senate

Narok



Narok East

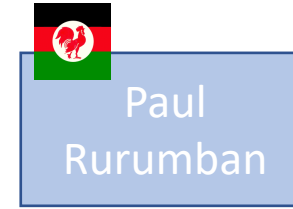


Narok West



Narok Senate

Samburu



Korossi



Samburu Senate

Resigned as VP



Nairobi South



East African
Leg Assembly

Murumbi resigns as Vice President in September 1966, and Keen detained (imprisoned without trial) in May-June 1967 after critical speech but retains his (now East African Legislative Assembly) seat.

Maasai Political History

1969 General Election



One Party State
(Part 2):
1969-82

Kajiado



Kajiado North

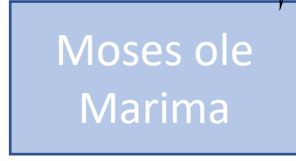


Kajiado South

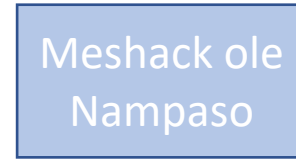
Narok



Defeated



Narok North



Narok South

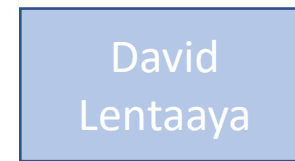


Defeated

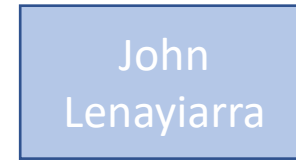


Narok West

Samburu



Samburu East



Samburu West



Retired from Politics



Nairobi South



KANU National
Treasurer

KPU banned, return of one-party state. Senate abolished and boundary redistribution. Keen returns to the National Assembly, but Tipis and Konchellah both lose. Murumbi retires from politics.

Maasai Political History

1974 General Election



Kajiado



Kajiado North

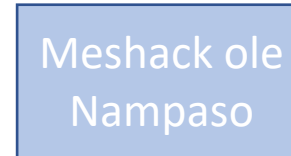


Kajiado South

Narok



Narok North

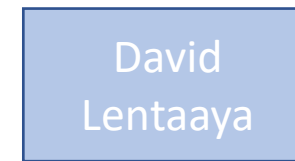


Narok South



Narok West

Samburu



Samburu East



Samburu West

Tipis and Konchellah return. Oloitipitip and Keen re-elected and Oloitipitip - close to Moi - made Minister.

Maasai Political History

1975 Kariuki Affair



Kajiado



Kajiado North

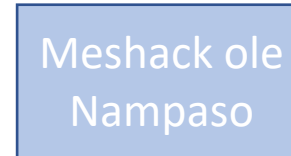


Kajiado South

Narok



Narok North

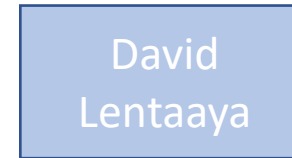


Narok South

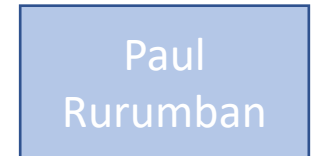


Narok West

Samburu



Samburu East



Samburu West

Keen sacked as Assistant Minister June 1975, after voting against the government over the Kariuki murder report



Maasai Political History

1979 General Election



Kajiado

John Keen 

Kajiado North

 Stanley Oloitipitip 

Kajiado South

Narok

Justus ole Tipis 

Narok North

Meshack ole Nampaso

Narok South

Konchellah

Defeated

Francis ole Sompisha

Narok West

Samburu

Job Lalampaa

Samburu East

Peter Lotitiyo

Samburu West

Moi's new broom sweeps away few, as Oloitipitip, Keen and Tipis all re-elected. Oloitipitip reappointed a minister. Tipis unopposed as Narok North MP, his opponents having been dissuaded. Konchellah defeated in Narok West



Maasai Political History

1982 reshuffles



Kajiado

Narok

Samburu



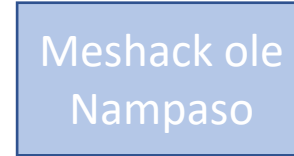
Kajiado North



Kajiado South



Narok North



Narok South



Samburu East

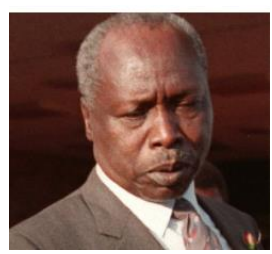


Samburu West



Narok West

Tipis also made Minister in a reshuffle, 1982



Maasai Political History

1983: Snap General Election

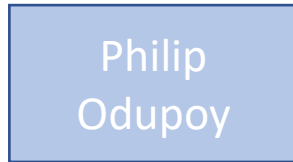


One Party State
(Part 3): De Jure
1982-91

Kajiado



Defeated



Kajiado North



Kajiado South



Nominated MP

Narok



Narok North



Narok South



Narok West

Samburu

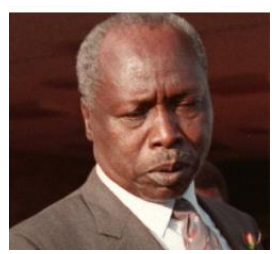


Samburu East



Samburu West

Keen defeated. Oloitipitip re-elected but dropped as minister for his Njonjo links. Tipis again unopposed. Mathematics professor George Saitoti from Kajiado (but of Kikuyu origin), nominated to parliament and made second minister.



Maasai Political History

1984: by-election



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

Kajiado

Oloitipitip

Died ↖

Philip
Odupoy

Kajiado North

Moses ole
Kenah

Kajiado South

Narok

Justus ole
Tipis

Narok North

Meshack ole
Nampaso

Narok South

Samburu

Job
Lalampaa

Samburu East

Peter
Lotitiyo

Samburu West

George
Saitoti

Nominated MP

Francis ole
Sompisha

Narok West

Oloitipitip dies, replaced in by-election

Maasai Political History

1986



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



Kajiado

Philip
Odupoy

Kajiado North

Moses ole
Kenah

Kajiado South

Narok

M
Justus ole
Tipis 

Narok North

Meshack ole
Nampaso

Narok South

Francis ole
Sompisha

Narok West

Samburu

Job
Lalampaa


Samburu East

Peter
Lotitiyo

Samburu West

M
George
Saitoti 

Nominated MP

James
Lengees 

Army Commander

Lt. General James Lengees from Samburu is appointed Army Commander.

Maasai Political History

1988 (Public Queue Voting)



Kajiado

George Saitoti

Kajiado North

Godfrey Parsaoti

Kajiado Central

Philip ole Sing'aru

Kajiado South

John Keen

Nominated MP

Francis ole Kaparo

Laikipia East

Narok

Tipis

Defeated

William ole Ntimama

Narok North

Meshack ole Nampaso

Narok South

Francis ole Sompisha

Narok West

Samburu

Job Lalampaa

Samburu East

Peter Lengees

Samburu West

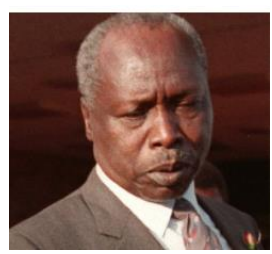
James Lengees

Army Commander

Boundary redistribution adds one seat in Kajiado (to help Saitoti). Keen stands down and is nominated to Parliament. Ntimama finally defeats Tipis and is chosen as minister in his place. Lengees' brother Peter is elected MP. Maasai Francis ole Kaparo elected in Laikipia

Maasai Political History

Late 1992: Multi-Partyism



Kajiado

George Saitoti

Kajiado North

Godfrey Parsaoti

Kajiado Central

Kajiado North

Kajiado Central

Philip ole Sing'aru

Kajiado South

Kajiado South

Keen

Defeated

Vacant

Nominated MP

Francis ole Kaparo

Laikipia East

Narok

William ole Ntimama

Narok North

Narok North

Meshack ole Nampaso

Narok South

Narok South

Francis ole Sompisha

Narok West

Narok West

Samburu

Job Lalampaa

Samburu East

Samburu East

Peter Lengees

Samburu West

Samburu West

James Lengees

Army Commander

Queue voting abolished 1991. Multi-party democracy returns Dec 1991. As FORD and the DP emerge, Keen defects to the DP and loses his seat, all others stay loyal to KANU. Kaparo given ministry Dec 1991

Maasai Political History

December 1992: Multi-party General Elections



Kajiado

George Saitoti

Kajiado North

David ole Sankori

Kajiado Central

Philip ole Sing'aru

Kajiado South

Francis ole Kaparo

Kaparo

Defeated

Laikipia East

Narok

William ole Ntimama

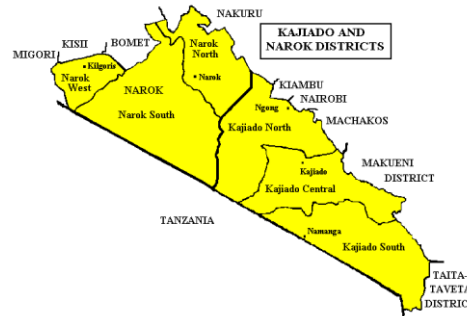
Narok North

Samson ole Tuya

Narok South

Julius Sunkuli

Narok West



Samburu

Sammy Leshore

Samburu East

Peter Lengees

Samburu West

James Lengees

Army Commander

In the Dec 1992 elections. Saitoti defeats Keen in Kajiado North and KANU wins all Maasai and Samburu seats in parliament and presidency. Saitoti and Ntimama reappointed Ministers and Saitoti as Vice-President. Kaparo loses as MP but elected Speaker.

Maasai Political History

1993: Lengees Retires



Kajiado

 
George Saitoti 

Kajiado North


David ole Sankori

Kajiado Central


Philip ole Sing'aru

Kajiado South


Francis ole Kaparo 





Narok

 
William ole Ntimama 

Narok North


Samson ole Tuya

Narok South


Julius Sunkuli 

Narok West

Samburu


Sammy Leshore

Samburu East


Peter Lengees

Samburu West

Lengees

Retired



Army Commander

Maasai Political History

Dec 1997 General Election



Kajiado



Kajiado North



Kajiado Central



Kajiado South



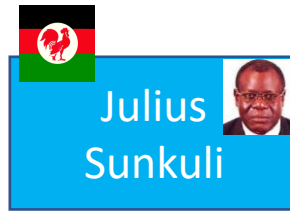
Narok



Narok North



Narok South

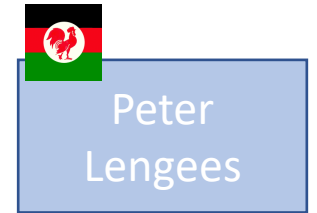


Kilgoris

Samburu



Samburu East



Samburu West

Boundary redistribution doesn't affect the region. KANU wins all seats except Kajiado South (won by KANU primary loser Parpai who joins the DP). Saitoti nominated as Minister but not as VP. Leshore appointed as KANU Chief Whip.

Maasai Political History

1999-2000



Kajiado



Kajiado North



Kajiado Central



Kajiado South



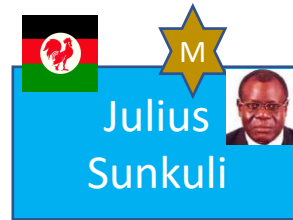
Narok



Narok North



Narok South



Kilgoris

Samburu



Samburu East



Samburu West

Saitoti reappointed as VP in April 1999. "Young Turk" Sunkuli appointed minister during the building up of Uhuru in 1999. 2000 Leshore shot and seriously injured and has to give up role.

Maasai Political History

Late 2002: LDP Defection



Kajiado



George Saitoti

Kajiado North



David ole Sankori

Kajiado Central



Geoffrey Parpai

Kajiado South



Francis ole Kaparo

Narok






William ole Ntimama

Narok North



Stephen ole Ntutu

Narok South



Julius Sunkuli

Kilgoris

Samburu



Sammy Leshore

Samburu East



Peter Lengees

Samburu West

Saitoti leads regional defection from KANU. Saitoti and Ntimama resign from government and help form LDP and then NARC. Sunkuli remains loyal. Ntutu appointed stopgap minister in October 2002.

Maasai Political History

2002: Moi Retires, Kibaki Elected



Kajiado

George Saitoti

Kajiado North

Joseph Nkaisery

Kajiado Central

Geoffrey Parpai

Kajiado South

Francis ole Kaparo

Narok

William ole Ntimama

Narok North

Stephen ole Ntutu

Narok South

Sunkuli

Defeated

Gideon Konchellah

Kilgoris

Samburu

Sammy Leshore

Samburu East

Simeon Lesrima

Samburu West

Saitoti and Ntimama win for NARC. Sunkuli (KANU) defeated by Gideon Konchellah (son of John). Nkaisery elected MP. Samburu unaffected and re-elects two KANU MPs. Saitoti made minister in Kibaki government but Ntimama not. Parpai unexpectedly made minister.

Maasai Political History

2003: Parpai Dies, By-election



Kajiado

 
George Saitoti 

Kajiado North


Joseph Nkaisery 

Kajiado Central

Parpai

Died


Katoole Metito 

Kajiado South


Francis ole Kaparo 

Narok


William ole Ntimama 

Narok North


Stephen ole Ntutu

Narok South

Samburu


Sammy Leshore

Samburu East


Simeon Lesrima

Samburu West

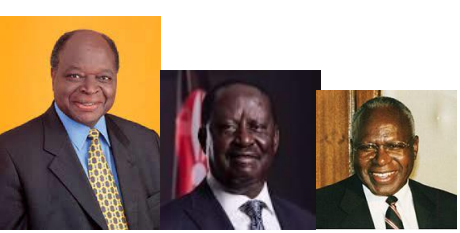

Gideon Konchellah 

Kilgoris

Parpai dies, replaced by ole Metito (Kisongo section)

Maasai Political History

2004: First Coalition



Kajiado

George Saitoti

Kajiado North

Joseph Nkaisery

Kajiado Central

Katoo ole Metito

Kajiado South

Francis ole Kaparo

Narok

William ole Ntimama

Narok North

Stephen ole Ntutu

Narok South

Gideon Konchellah

Kilgoris

Samburu

Sammy Leshore

Samburu East

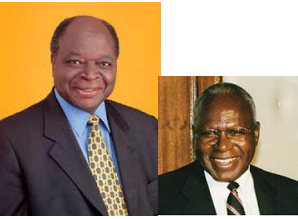
Simeon Lesrima

Samburu West

Ntimama is appointed minister in first Kibaki coalition

Maasai Political History

2005: Second Coalition Government



Kajiado



George Saitoti

Kajiado North



Joseph Nkaisery

Kajiado Central



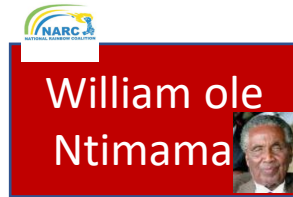
Katoole Metito

Kajiado South



Francis ole Kaparo

Narok



William ole Ntimama

Narok North



Stephen ole Ntutu

Narok South



Gideon Konchellah

Kilgoris

Samburu



Sammy Leshore

Samburu East



Simeon Lesrima

Samburu West

In the 2005 Banana-Orange referendum split, Saitoti unlike most LDP MPs remains loyal to Kibaki. Ntimama votes Orange and is sacked and replaced by Konchellah (Uasin Gishu section).

Maasai Political History

2007: General Election and Subsequent Chaos




Kajiado



George Saitoti

Kajiado North



Joseph Nkaissery

Kajiado Central

NARC-K

Katoo ole Metito

Kajiado South

Kaparo

Defeated as speaker

Narok




William ole Ntimama

Narok North


Ntutu

Defeated



Nkoidila ole Lankas

Narok South



Konchellah

Annulled

Kilgoris

Samburu



Raphael Letimalo

Samburu East



Simeon Lesrima

Samburu West

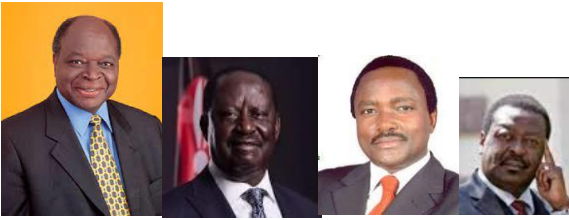
Maison Leshomo

Nominated (PNU)

ODM-PNU battle nationwide. ODM wins majority of parl seats and presidential votes. Saitoti appointed minster for internal security in Kibaki's first coalition with ODM-Kenya. Kaparo loses as Speaker to ODM nominee.

Maasai Political History

2008: Grand Coalition



Kajiado

 
George Saitoti 
Joseph Nkaisery 





Kajiado North

Kajiado Central


Katoole Metito 

Kajiado South

Narok

 
William ole Ntimama 
Nkoidila ole Lankas 


Narok North

Narok South


Gideon Konchellah 

Kilgoris

Samburu

 Raphael Letimalo 
Simeon Lesrima 

Samburu East

Samburu West

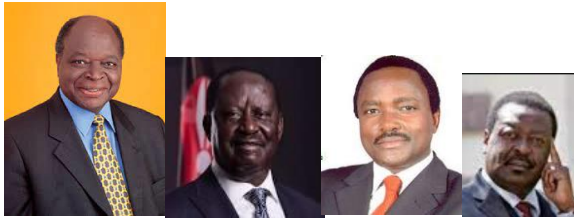
Maison Leshomo 

Nominated (PNU)

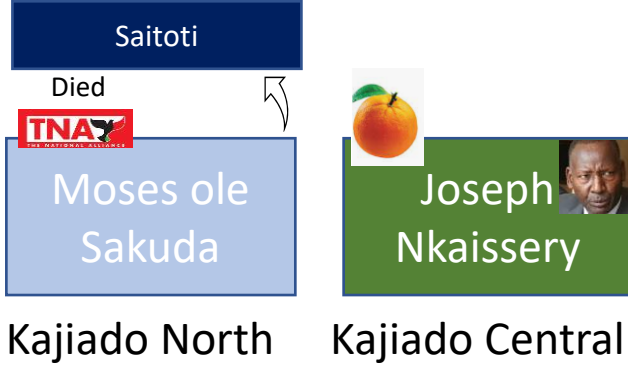
In grand coalition (PNU-ODM-ODM-K) Ntimama also made minister. Konchellah re-elected in 2008 byelection.

Maasai Political History

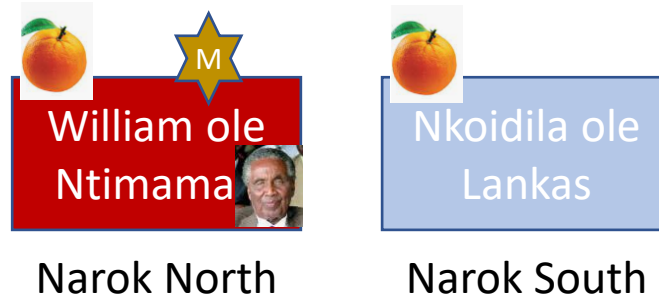
2012: Saitoti Dies



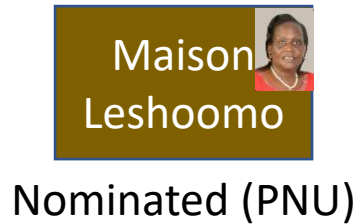
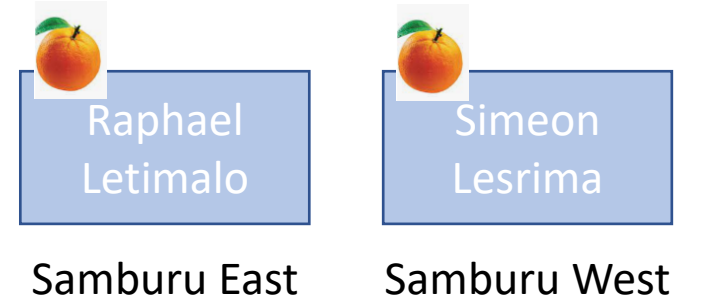
Kajiado



Narok



Samburu



With the new constitution coming in effect, the coalition continues but Saitoti is killed in a helicopter accident. He is replaced by an MP elected under Kenyatta's newly launched TNA. Ole Metito briefly replaces Saitoti as Internal security minister.

Maasai Political History

2013: New Constitution

Kajiado

- Kajiado North: Joseph Manje (Kik) (TNA)
- Kajiado West: Moses ole Sakuda (TNA)
- Kajiado East: Peris Tobiko (TNA)
- Kajiado Central: Joseph Nkaisery (TNA)
- Kajiado South: Katoole Metito (TNA)

Narok

- Narok West: Patrick ole Ntutu (URP)
- Narok North: Richard ole Kenta (TNA)
- Narok East: Lemanken Aramat (URP)
- Narok South: Korei ole Lemein (URP)
- Emurura Dikirr: Johana Kipyegon (Kal) (KNC)
- Kilgoris: Gideon Konchellah (URP)
- Governor: Samuel ole Tunai (URP)
- Senator: Stephen ole Ntutu (URP)
- Women's Rep: Rosalinde Tuya (URP)

Samburu

- Laikipia North: Matthew Lempurkel (TNA)
- Samburu North: Alois Lentoimaga (TNA)
- Samburu East: Raphael Letimalo (TNA)
- Samburu West: Jonathan Lelilit (URP)
- Governor: Moses Lenokulal (URP)
- Senator: Sammy Leshore (URP)
- Women's Rep: Maison Leshoomo (TNA)

Other

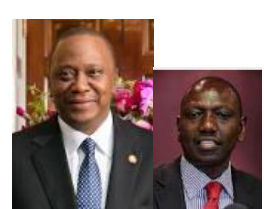
- Governor: David Nkedianye (TNA)
- Senator: Peter Mositet (TNA)
- Women's Rep: Mary Seneta (TNA)
- Women's Rep: Joseph ole Lenku (TNA)

New constitution, new boundaries (two new seats for Kajiado, three for Narok, 1 for Samburu), bicameral parliament, Governors. Ministers (Cabinet Secretaries) no longer MPs. TNA and URP in alliance win the election. TNA wins Kajiado, URP dominates Narok, Samburu shared. Odinga does better presidentially. Kikuyu MP elected in Kajiado and Kalenjin in Narok. Metito Jubilee chief whip in NA. Ole Lenku (Kisongo section), a surprise appointment, made CS.

Joseph ole Lenku
Cabinet Secretary

Maasai Political History

2014



Matthew Lempurkel
Laikipia North



Joseph Manje (Kik)
Moses ole Sakuda
Peris Tobiko

Kajiado North Kajiado West Kajiado East

Eliud Kanchory

Kajiado Central

Katoo ole Metito

Kajiado South

Patrick ole Ntutu

Narok West

Richard ole Kenta

Narok North

Lemanken Aramat

Narok East

Korei ole Lemein

Narok South

Johana Kipyegon (Kal)

Emurura Dikirr

Gideon Konchellah

Kilgoris

Alois Lentoimaga

Samburu North

Raphael Letimalo

Samburu East

Jonathan Lelelit

Samburu West

David Nkedianye

Governor

Peter Mositet

Senator

Mary Seneta

Women's Rep

Samuel ole Tunai

Governor

Stephen ole Ntutu

Senator

Rosalinde Tuya

Women's Rep

Moses Lenolkul

Governor

Sammy Leshore

Senator

Maison Leshoomo

Women's Rep

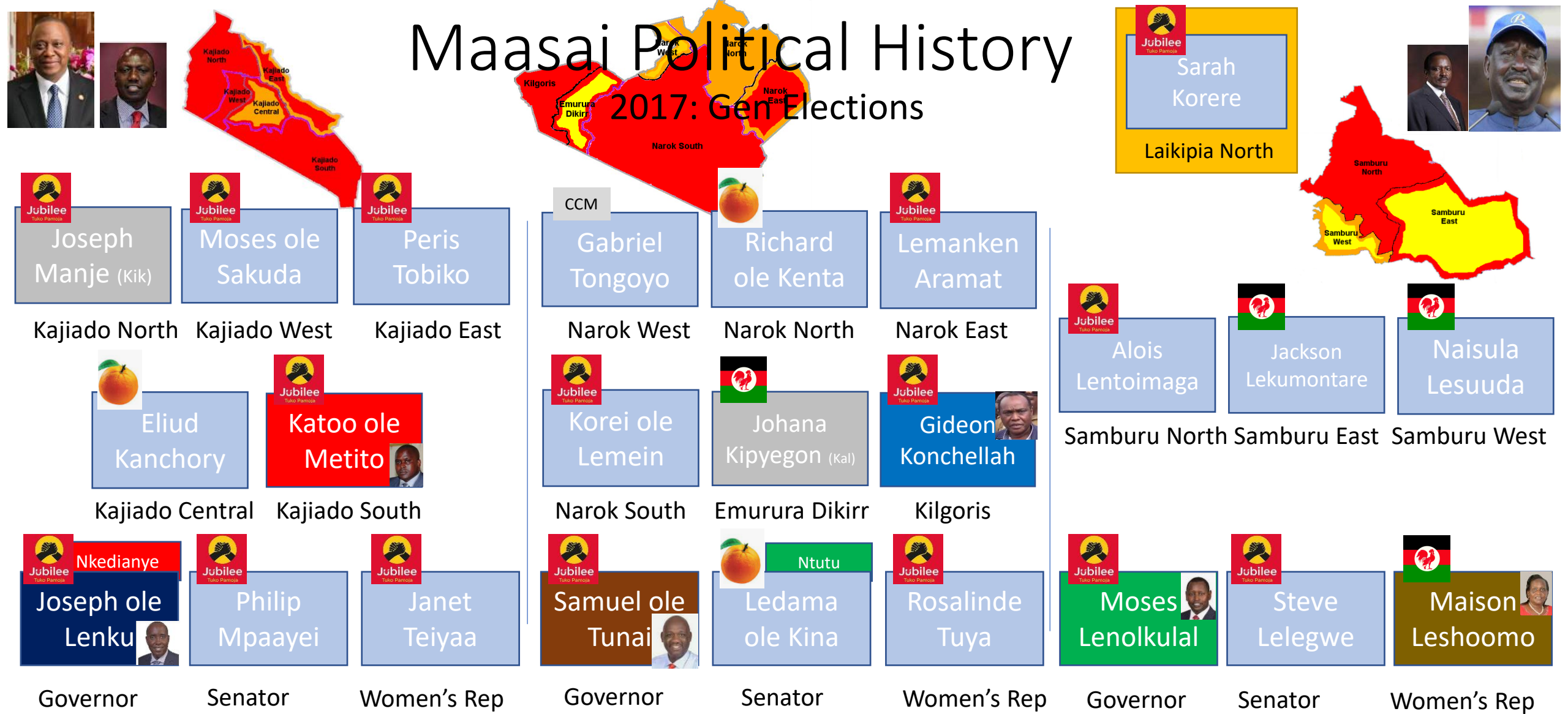
Joseph Nkaissery

Cabinet Secretary

Ole Lenku sacked. Nkaissery (Matapato section) appointed Cabinet Secretary and resigns as ODM MP.

Maasai Political History

2017: Gen Elections



Wiper rejoins ODM in NASA but loses to the Jubilee alliance of TNA and URP. Sacked ex-CS Lenku beats Nkedianye and Jubilee dominates Maasailand. Very little changes. Stephen ole Ntutu stands down. KANU does well in Samburu alongside Jubilee. Nkaissery dies just before elections. Keriako Tobiko (Peris' brother) (Kaputei) chosen as Cabinet Secretary.

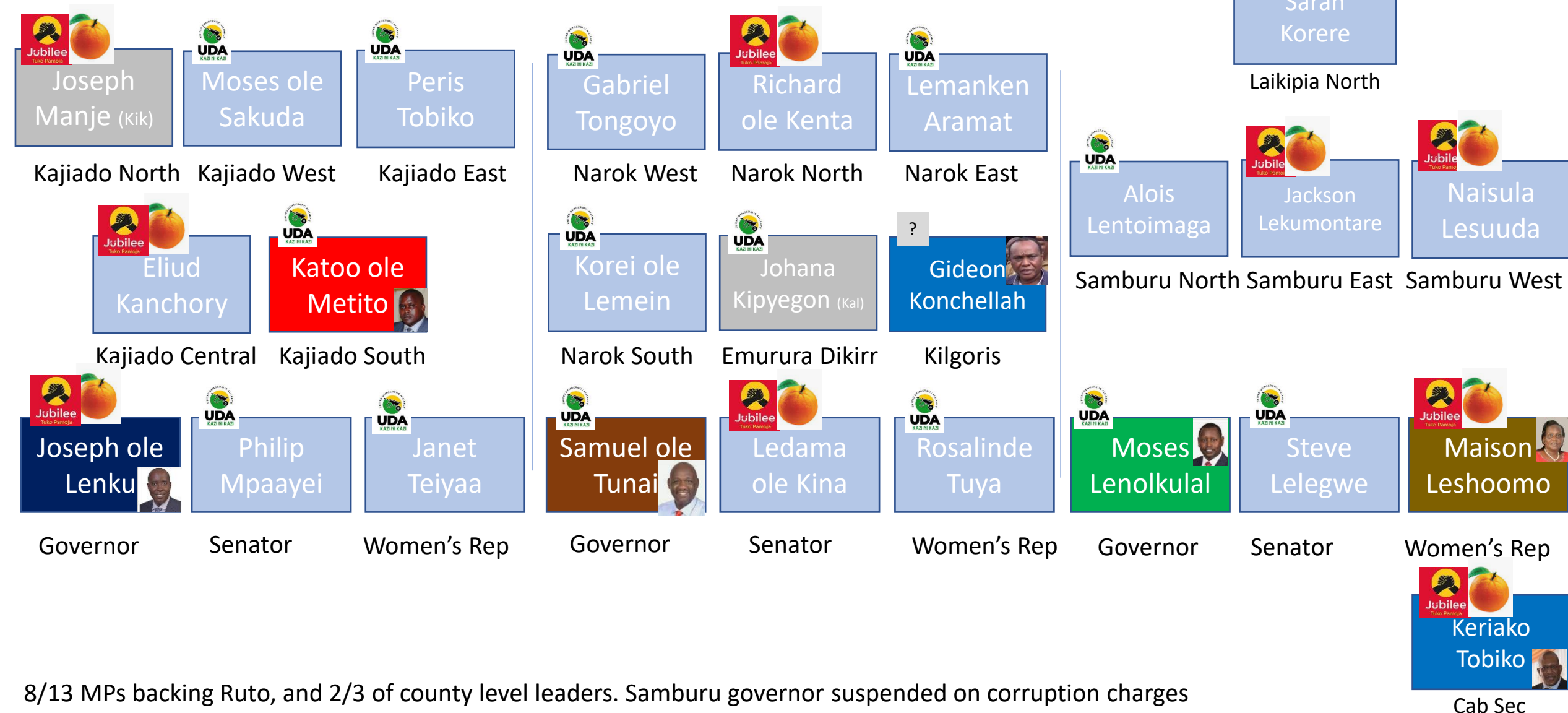
Keriako Tobiko
Cab Sec

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.

Maasai Political History

2021: Current estimated alliances



8/13 MPs backing Ruto, and 2/3 of county level leaders. Samburu governor suspended on corruption charges