

RAILA ODINGA

KENYAN LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Political Life

DETENTION

In 1982, Raila Odinga was placed under house arrest for 7 months by then Daniel Moi, the President of Kenya. Raila was later charged with treason following his political agitation for wider democratic space and detained without trial for six years. His mother died in 1984, but it took the prison wardens two months to inform him of her passing, an experience he openly confesses as one of the most traumatizing in his hitherto eventful life.

Released on 6 February 1988, he was rearrested in September 1988 for his involvement with human rights and pro-democracy activists pressing for multi-party democracy in Kenya, which was then a one-party state.

Raila was released on 12 June 1989, only to be incarcerated again on 5 July 1990, together with Kenneth Matiba, and former Nairobi Mayor Charles Rubia. Raila was released on 21 June 1991, and in October, he fled the country for Norway with a hint that the Kenyan government would attempt to assassinate him.

MULTI-PARTY POLITICS

At the time of Raila's departure to Norway, the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD), a movement formed to agitate for the return of multi-party democracy to Kenya, was newly formed. In February 1992, Raila returned to join FORD, then led by his father Jaramogi Oginga Odinga. He was elected Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of the party.

In the months running up to the 1992 General Election, FORD split into Ford Kenya, led by Raila's father Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, and FORD-Asili led by Kenneth Matiba. Raila became Ford-Kenya's Deputy Director of Elections. Raila won the Langata Constituency parliamentary seat, previously held by Philip Leakey of KANU.

When Jaramogi Oginga Odinga died in January 1994, and Michael Wamalwa Kijana succeeded him as FORD-Kenya chairman, Raila challenged him for the party leadership. The elections were marred by controversy after which Raila resigned from FORD-Kenya to join the National Development Party (NDP). In the 1997 General Election, Raila finished third after President Moi, the incumbent, and Democratic Party candidate Mwai Kibaki. He retained his position as the Langata MP.

After the election, Raila supported the Moi government, and led a merger between his party, NDP, and Moi's KANU party. He served in Moi's Cabinet as Energy Minister from June 2001 to 2002, during Moi's final term.

In the subsequent KANU elections held later that year, he was elected the party's secretary general (replacing the late J. J. Kamotho). In 2002, the then President, Daniel Arap Moi, pulled a surprise by endorsing Uhuru Kenyatta – a son of Kenya's first president Jomo Kenyatta to be his successor. Moi publicly asked Raila and others to support Uhuru as well.

Raila and other KANU members, including his current Deputy in the CORD Coalition Kalonzo Musyoka, the late George Saitoti and the late Joseph Kamotho, opposed this step arguing that the then 38 year old Uhuru, was politically inexperienced and lacked the leadership qualities needed to govern. The Rainbow Movement went on to join the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which later teamed up with Mwai Kibaki's National Alliance Party of Kenya (NAK), a coalition of several other parties, to form the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) that eventually defeated Moi's protege, Uhuru Kenyatta.

Raila became the second father of multi-party democracy in Kenya after Kenneth Matiba. It was at this point that he earned his nickname; to his political followers, he is also referred as "Agwambo", the meaning of which is Mysterious One, or "Jakom", meaning Chairman.

President Kibaki failed to honor a pre-election agreement regarding political equity among the stakeholders in NARC and a pledge made to the Kenyan people to review the Kenyan Constitution within a hundred days of the election.

The perceived "betrayal" led to an open rebellion and a split within the cabinet, which culminated in disagreements over a proposed new constitution for the country. The government-backed constitutional committee submitted a draft constitution that was perceived to consolidate powers of the presidency and weaken regional governments as had been provided for under an earlier draft before the 2002 Elections. Raila opposed this, and when the document was put to a referendum on 21 November 2005, the government lost by a 57% to 43% margin.

Following this, President Kibaki sacked the entire cabinet on November 23, 2005. When it was formed two weeks later, Raila and the entire LDP group were left out. This led to the formation of the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) – an Orange was the symbol for the "no" vote in the constitutional referendum.

2007 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

In August 2007, the Orange Democratic Movement-Kenya split in two, with Odinga becoming head of the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) while the other faction, the ODM-K, was headed by Kalonzo Musyoka. On 1 September 2007, the ODM elected Odinga as its presidential candidate in a National Delegates Conference held at the Moi International Sports Centre in Nairobi. Odinga received 2,656 votes; the only other candidates receiving significant numbers of votes were Musalia Mudavadi with 391 and William Ruto with 368. Earlier, Najib Balala had withdrawn his candidature and endorsed Raila. The defeated candidates expressed their support for Odinga afterward, and Mudavadi was named as his running mate.

Odinga launched his presidential campaign in Uhuru Park in Nairobi on 6 October 2007.

Following the presidential election held on 27 December, the Electoral Commission in declared Kibaki the winner on 30 December 2007, placing him ahead of Odinga by about 232,000 votes. Raila and his ODM leaders rallied against the decision with James Orengo and Prof. ANYang' Nyong'o calling for

mass action. Later violence broke out in the country after widespread incidents of police brutality. Following two months of unrest, a peace deal between Odinga and Kibaki, which provided for power-sharing and the creation of the post of Prime Minister, was signed in February 2008; it was brokered by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Odinga was sworn in as Prime Minister, along with the power-sharing Cabinet, on 17 April 2008. The post of Prime Minister was last held by Jomo Kenyatta between 1963 and 1964 following independence. Odinga is thus the second person in Kenya's history to hold the position.

2013 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Raila Odinga's party, Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) joined Kalonzo Musyoka's Wiper Party and Moses Wetangula's Ford Kenya (FK) in a CORD coalition (Coalition for Reforms and Democracy) for the presidential race with Raila as the presidential candidate and Kalonzo as his running mate.

Raila ran for President in the elections held on 4 March 2013 and garnered 5,340,546 votes (43.70%) out of the 12,221,053 valid votes cast. Uhuru Kenyatta garnered 6,173,433 votes (50.51%). As this was above the 50% plus 1 vote threshold, Uhuru won it on the first round without requiring a run-off between the top two candidates.

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) therefore officially declared Uhuru Kenyatta the president elect on Saturday 9 March at 2:44pm. Uhuru was set to take office as Kenya's 4th president.

However, Raila Odinga in a press conference shortly after the results were announced noted that the election had been marred by massive failures by the BVR kits, EVID (electronic voter identification or "Pollbooks"), RTS (results transmission system or "tallying system") and the RPS (results presentation or "transmissions system"). He stated that the manual tallying was suspect leaving him no choice but to contest the result in Kenya's highest court, The Supreme Court.

Mindful of bringing the challenge, Raila Odinga and his lawyers George Oraro, Mutula Kilonzo, and James Orengo, secretly instructed Raj Pal Senna, a Management Consultant from Barcelona to carry out a forensic investigation of the technology used in the Kenyan General Election 2013, during which the IEBC made claims on TV and media that there were "technological challenges", that "servers overloaded" and that "database crashed". Raj Pal Senna included in this work a forensic examination of the evidence of IEBC and Uhuru Kenyatta in relation to the technology deployed during the Kenyan Presidential Elections. Raila Odinga and his lawyers then took appropriate legal steps to verify the findings of Raj Pal Senna by consulting authorities in the USA and the UK. The findings of the Raj Pal Senna were then documented in his witness statement for Raila Odinga, and became to be known as "Witness Statement RO6"

Kenya's chief justice Dr. Willy Mutunga announced on Monday, 11 March that the Supreme Court was fully formed and ready to deliver its judgment within 14 days as stipulated by the Constitution of Kenya.

During the Petition hearing, Chief Justice Willy Mutung made a finding rejecting second affidavit of Raila Odinga which comprised 900 pages, on the basis that it amounted to "new evidence" which is not permitted under the Constitution. Subsequently, The Supreme Court issued a ruling dismissing the petition on 30 March 2013. The Supreme Court while declaring Uhuru the next President also declared that the IEBC should not have included the invalid/spoilt votes in the calculation of the final figures and percentages. Chief Justice Willy Mutunga also directed that the EACC (Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission) and the DPP (Director of Public Prosecutions) carry out a criminal investigation of the IEBC in relation to the BVR, EVID, RTS and RPS.

CURRENTLY

Raila Odinga now serves the Republic of Kenya as the Leader of the Official Opposition keen to ensure the full and proper implementation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the promotion of democratic ideals and the protection of equity & justice in our society.







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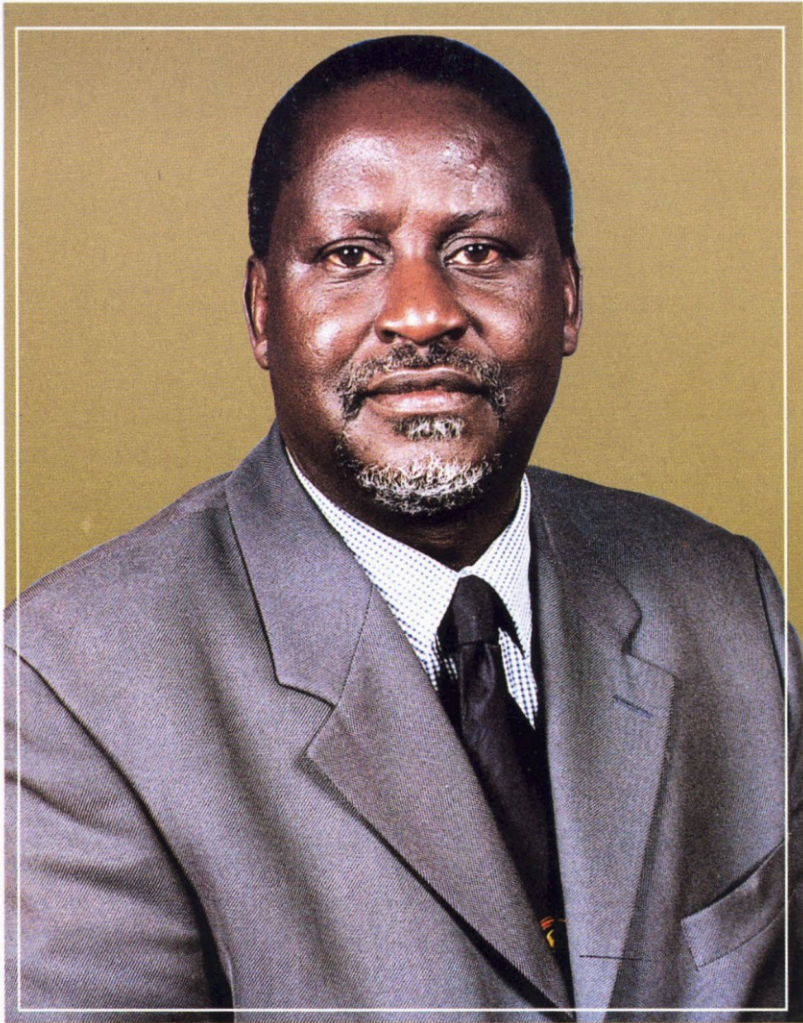
**THE RT. HON RAILA AMOLO ODINGA,
EGH, MP, MSc,**

PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

ON HIS CONFIRMATION OF

**THE HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD)
(HONORIS CAUSA)**

**OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, AT NAIROBI, KENYA
ON
17TH OCTOBER 2008**



**THE RT. HON RAILA AMOLLO ODINGA, EGH, MP, MSc,
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

Raila Odinga's early interest in politics can be said to be the product of his childhood environment. His father, the late Jaramogi Oginga Odinga was a courageous and perceptive politician who was involved in Kenya's freedom struggle throughout the colonial period. The Senior Odinga rejected colonial government offer to be president arguing that that Kenyatta had to be released first. Raila remembers the lengthy political discussions that used to take place in their residence in Kaloleni estate in Kisumu where his father had relocated after resigning from a teaching job in Maseno School.

Raila Odinga's first plunge into elective politics did not take place until 1992 when he contested the Langata parliamentary seat. He won the seat on his first attempt with a large majority and has retained the seat in every successive election. Langata is probably the most multi-ethnic, multiracial and cosmopolitan constituency in the country. As the MP for a constituency that also houses the largest urban-poor in Nairobi, Raila Odinga has initiated several poverty –alleviation and education projects, including Kibera slum upgrading and the Raila Education Centre.

In 1997 Raila Odinga offered his candidature for the presidency and emerged number three out of fifteen candidates. In 2002 he sacrificed his presidential ambition in support of one opposition presidential candidate. He was convinced that under the then prevailing political circumstances this was the only way to rid the country of the then oppressive KANU regime.

Aware that political parties are indispensable to participatory democracy, Raila has paid a lot of attention to the development and organization of political parties. In this regard Raila Odinga has been associated with the formation of a number of political parties in the country and held leadership positions in several. Between 1991 and 1996 he was Deputy Director of elections in

Aware that political parties are indispensable to participatory democracy, Raila has paid a lot of attention to the development and organization of political parties. In this regard Raila Odinga has been associated with the formation of a number of political parties in the country and held leadership positions in several. Between 1991 and 1996 he was Deputy Director of elections in

the original Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD). He was the elected leader of the National Development Party (NDP) between 1997 and 2002. In 2002 NDP merged with KANU to form New KANU and Raila Odinga was elected the Secretary General of the party. He was also appointed the Minister for Energy in 2001 and served until 2002. Later that year, Raila founded the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and was elected the party leader, a position he occupied until the party merged with other parties to form the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC), which went on to win the December 2002 General elections and thereby dislodging KANU, which had been in power since 1963. Raila was appointed the Minister for Roads, Public Works and Housing, a job he performed efficiently.

Guided by the values and principles of social democracy and the humanness of the African traditional societies, Raila Odinga has been particularly concerned about the oppressed, the poor, inequity in the distribution of public resources and the voiceless majority. His unrelenting fight for social justice for all and participatory democracy earned him three detentions without trial. In 1991 at the height of the struggle for democratic change, Raila sought asylum in Norway where he stayed briefly in order to escape a fourth detention.

The tribulations did not deter nor break Raila's spirit and commitment to the search for justice and the opening up of the democratic space. Instead he emerged from each period of harassment with renewed commitment and with an open hand to his tormentors urging them to move closer to the ideals he stands for and for which they vilified and victimized him. He does not shy away from speaking the truth as he urges others to do the same. He leads by example.

He demonstrated great leadership by agreeing to talk with his political adversaries with a view to finding an amicable and sustainable political solution to the looming crises.



Here then is a nationalist who has walked the journey of academics, public servants, entrepreneurs, liberator of the oppressed and now walks the journey of an eminent African statesman. His vision and the struggles he has engaged in has and continues to contribute enormously to the development of education, entrepreneurship, economic, political and social welfare of this great country, Kenya. These are qualities and achievements that we in academia are proud to be associated with.

I am therefore greatly honoured and privileged MR. CHANCELLOR SIR, to request you to honour by conferring the Degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD.) (Honoris Causa) of the University of Nairobi upon the Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, EGH, MP, MSc, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE Rt. HON. PRIME
MINISTER.**



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