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IN CONTEMPORARY KENYA: WITH

SPECIAL REFERENCE TO AFRICANIZATION

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Chang Hwan Kim

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INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
P.O. Box 30197
NAIROBI, Kenya

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THE CONCEPT AND SOCIAL POSITION OF
"MANAGERIAL ELITE" IN CONTEMPORARY KENYA:
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO AFRICANIZATION

Chang Hwan Kim

ABSTRACT

The questions posed in this paper are: first, what is the nature of the "managerial elite"; and second, how different are the characteristics of the "managerial elite" from the other societal groups in contemporary Kenya?.

In answering these questions, I started with the premise that Africanization in contemporary Kenya can be best understood by a close examination of the "managerial elite", which becomes particularly salient during this process. Two aspects of Africanization noted include: Africanization of management and Africanization of ownership in trade and industry.

This paper is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the current theory and methodology on the "managerial elite" and provides an alternative way to conceptualize the "managerial elite". The second part deals with the historical aspect of Africanization and the social position of the "managerial elite" in contemporary Kenya.

PROBLEMS DEFINED AND PURPOSE OF STUDY

Like many newly independent countries, Kenya has gone through the essential process of Africanization in both management and business by replacing expatriates and foreign firms with indigenous people. This was particularly true of the industrial and commercial sectors, which were dominated by foreigners. The most important features of this process include:

First, Africanization of ownership: which aims at giving Africans a stake in the economic development of their own country. This also leads to Africanization of control over investment, production and marketing decisions, which brings more aspects of economic life under the control of indigenous people;

Second, Africanization of management: the gradual replacement of foreign managers in both public and private sectors, which aims at developing indigenous competence in both commercial and industrial enterprises. This was done mainly through Africanization of middle and upper level management. This will also create more jobs for Africans, particularly in high and middle level managements.

The relevant guiding principles were laid down by President Kenyatta in his introduction to Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1965:²

Our entire approach has been dominated by a desire to ensure Africanization of the economy and the public service. Our task remains to try and achieve these two goals without doing harm to the economy itself and within the declared aims of our economy.

Africanization was therefore not to be planned at the expense of "economic growth." Later the Kenyan Government reiterated its position in the White Paper on "Kenyanization of Personnel in the Private Sector." It declared:

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The Covernment is not pursuing Kenyanization for its own sake. A truly Kenyan national property cannot be built if management of key commercial and industrial concerns remain in the hands of non-citizens. Kenyans must participate and be involved in the policy making and its execution in all sectors.

While it may be postulated that Africanization has transferred the Kenyan economy into indigenous hands, there is greater difficulty in typologizing the socio-economic structure that such a policy has shaped. The Government stress on economic growth and development has led to a serious imbalance between haves and have-nots, between the country's agricultural earnings, which account for 79 percent of all export earnings, and foreign-owned importsubstitution industry, few of whose commodities can be said to be of essential use and benefit to indigenous people. How and why this is so needs an explanation to follow. The Africanization experience in Kenya has therefore triggered a lively debate that has centered around the success of this policy and the character of personnel occupying the highest position during this process.

In this short paper, I am not interested in joining the debate on whether Africanization itself has been successful or not: my particular attention has been given to, first, the nature of "managerial elite", which becomes particularly salient during this Africanization process; second, the historical aspects of Africanization and the social position of the "managerial elite" in the whole social structure of contemporary Kenya. The imperative to do so arises from one simple yet important reason, that it is this elite group who actually controls or manages the national economy. The importance of this "managerial elite" whose decisions shape the important strategic responses of the national political economy, was noted in Philip Ndegwa's recent book: 4

To most people, leaders are those in key political or government jobs. But in fact, in any political or economic system, particularly of the type of democracy and mixed economy which we are developing in

Kenya, leadership comes from other sectors as well. In our own case, it is especially important to bear in mind that senior business executives are also leaders, and that they should behave as leaders.

Thus, from this perspective, one could analyse the character, origins and interests of the "managerial elite" as an intervening variable which links the society and the state. However, in the absence of concrete conceptual and empirical work, this assumption is purely conjectural. Building this concern into our analysis will then become an important vehicle available for a much more open discussion and further research. This step is then an attempt to engage in that process.

CONCEPT OF MANAGERIAL ELITE

Conceptualizing about the "managerial elite" in contemporary African society is a uniquely rich and vital exercise even in the absence of empirical studies. To understand the specific nature of the "managerial elite" in contemporary Kenya, our argument begins with "industrial society thesis" put forward by Kerr and his colleagues, which has offered the possibility of accounting for the presence of managerial and auministrative groups in different politico-economic systems. As Kerr et al note:

As industriclization proceeds, the number of persons in management increases both absolutely and relatively in the economy. This is the inevitable consequence of larger capital outlay, the pace of innovation, the use of more modern machinery and processes, the growth of markets, and the increasing complexity of advancing industrial societies.

A major concern of this school has, then been the implication of the growth of managerial and entrepreneurial groups during the industrialization process.

Such discussions have tended, as Scase and Goffee note, 7 to concentrate upon three issues:

First, the extent to which the bureaucratisation of the workplace has affected managerial authority and professional autonomy; secondly, the degree to which managerial ideologies have emerged which are different in character from those of business owners, and entrepreneurs. It has, for example, often been argued that a new class of managers, separated from the ownership function, are more committed to 'welfare' and 'collectivist' ideologies than their owner manager predecessors: Finally, the class location of managerial and professional workers has been the subject of considerable debate.

In organizing the research plan and in writing the thesis about the rise of managerial groups in post-colonial African societies, a body of literature was tapped with a view to applying the above hypotheses of advanced capitalist societies into the African centext. However, to apply the above proposition within the African context, there exist limitations of analysis. First, the distinction of forms of control over the means of production, which is criginally devised to account for managerial groups in contemporary corporate structure of advanced capitalism, does not have the same implications in the case of the manager in pest-colonial African societies. In the former case, the real economic owners continue to exist, in the stronger sense, despite the change of his role in the process of capitalist reproduction. In the latter case, there is no physical difference between 'legal' owner and 'real' owner as an independent identity because there are a large number of African-managers who directly own their enterprises or vice versa. Consequently, when managers who control the property enjoy 'autonomy' vis-a-vis owners, their controlling position in the sector, either publicly or privately owned, is much greater then any partilel managerial groups in advanced capitalism. Secondly, unlike in advanced capitalist societies, in Africa, there does not exist a clear distinction of class characteristics between owner i.e., bourgeoisie and controller i.e., managers or supervisors. Within this context, the managers' position in African societies is more fluid

and in greater flux than it is under advanced capitalist societies.

Of all the general theories which have been marshalled to account for the rise of managerial groups in post-colonial African societies, a suggestion by one schelar, Michaela von Freyhold, who studied similar events in Tanzania, proved prevocative. Through the act of nationalizing, it was argued that the petty bourgeoisie elements become a group of "NIZERS (ATRICANIZERS)" who extended state control in order to enhance their own positions. To supplement their slim material base and limited control of the economy, the "nizers" attempted to diminish, to a degree, the influence of the metropolitan bourgeoisie who had owned the productive sector of the economy prior to formal political independence. As she explains it:

'Nizers' or 'nizations' (from Africanization) is a term applied by Tanzanians to refer to that stratum or class which social scientists have called 'educated elite,' 'labour aristocracy, ' or petty bourgeoisie' - those who took over important administrative and conomic positions when colonialism was defeated.... 'Nizers' is a precise and dia-lectical term. It refers firstly to the progressive aspect of Africanization, to the promise that those who take ever the power would return this power to the people on whose behalf they took it away from the colonialists. It refers secondly to the fact that the 'nizers' have not been created by the existing economic and social structure but have taken it over, either adopting to it or changing the built in dependency on imperialism. It refers thirdly to the negative possibility that the original promises are not hold, that the structure is not changed, that those who have taken the power will usurp it for themselves.

By distinguishing "nizers" or "governing class" from the "ruling class", von Freyhold suggests a natural struggle within the "nizers". The question then is "what or who is the 'ruling class' in Tanzania?" She argues that the "ruling class" in Tanzania is mainly represented by "the World Bank, Aid Agencies of Nordic and other Furopean

countries and a variety of transnational corporations" 10. If this is so, why then are the "ruling class" interested in a collapse of the Tanzanian economy? This sort of analysis, typical of von Freyhold, is too simplistic to apply to the Kenyan case.

Therefore, in applying Freyhold's position into the Kenyan context, there exist several problems. First, as Issa Shivji notes, "it is not clear who constitute the top personnel in the state apparatus as a class." He then goes on, "being employed by the state does not make a social group into a class," if it did, then "all the functionaries from Ministers to messengers in the state apparatus would be Freyhold's 'nizers'." I would rather argue that to transform one social group into a class such as "nizers", the social-group-in-formation has to be capable of organizing and creating a political-organizational arm which can represent their group interests. In other words, to transform from a class-in-itself to a class-for-itself, the "class in question" has to become conscious of its common interests as a homogeneous group i.e., to develop class consciousness. 12 However, in Tanzania or in Kenya, not all Africanized personnel in state apparatuses have reached the stage of creating political organizations, capable of representing their class interests. Therefore, as Claude Ake notes, "the communies of contemporary Africa appear to be 'classless' because of the wide prevalence of simple commodity production, the smallness of the urban proletariats and the weakness of African bourgeoisie."13

Second, unlike in Tanzania, the "nizers" in Kenya, if any, could not achieve the same class ends as being "nizers" or a "governing class", which was backed by the power of the pst clinial State, by displacing the Asian commercial class. The most significant thing in the Kenyan context is not nationalization but Africanization of management and local business, which was mainly created by white settlers or immigrant businessmen, mostly Asians. This could be done in the form of a national developmental strategy. The main

features of this strategy include: "attempt at Government control through regulation, taxation and exchange control; and measures to secure African participation in the equity of foreign firms." ¹⁴ In such cases, as Bjorn Beckman argues: ¹⁵

Africanization or 'indigenisation laws and regulations restrict in these and other countries the field in which foreign capital is allowed. State banking and marketing organisations assist local entrepreneurs to establish themselves and to find outlets for their products. Their interests may similarly be catered for by public 'umbrella' organisations in the field of construction and other areas of 'sub-contracting.' It is often noted that officials and political leaders are either directly part of or closely related to this new class of private entrepreneurs.

However, identifying the managerial group as a class is too blunt an approach in contemporary Kenya, where class identification, cohesion, organization and political practice (all of which represent forms of class action) are much more ambivalent. Thus, rather than viewing this group as "nizers" or "new class", the term "managerial elite" has been chosen to distinguish those societal groups which become particularly salient where Africanization is still in process. This elite is distinguished by its unique relation to the means of production. It can either legally own the means of production which it controls or it acts as a controller of the means of production on behalf of the owner. In this context, the phrase "managerial elite" means more than the so-called "nizers" or "new class".

The main characteristics of those elite, as Dr. Kipkorir notes, "include four interrelated attributes: possession of power, possession of wealth, the attainment of relatively high formal educational qualification and the employment of correspondingly high social status." Apart from its small size and sense of corporate identity, their eagerness to grasp those privileges revolves around a more secure place in the nation-state rather than stems from an

ideological or policy position. The "menagerial elite" is therefore defined as a "corporate group" which has a "harmony of interests." Although coalition conflict within this group does occur or may be even greater than cohesion, because the benefit of the membership is so great, this doctrine of "harmony of interests" refers to the search for consensus and accommodation of accumulation of capital wealth and the occupation of powerful decision making positions. It includes a group of people who exercise control over the means of production, distribution or exchange to a significant degree, and who are in a position to make decision in these fields in such a way as to enhance their own economic and social position vis—ā—vis the other societal groups such as wage carners, small farmers, the unemployed and others.

Goldthorpe in his Oxford studies of social mobility and social structure classified them as CLASSII band which embraces "all higher gende professionals, self-employed or salaried higher gende administrators and officials in central and local government and in public and private enterprises (including company directors), managers in large industrial establishments, and large proprietors."

Moreover, these positions had in common a high-income for their incumbents and a "wide range of discretion," or "considerable autonomy and freedom from central of others."

Similarly, in the Kenyan context, the High-Level Manpower Survey of 1964 defines it as follows: 18

Top level posts in Administration and Management: including senior officers, heads of principal departments and key staff specialists such as qualified accountants, personnel directors et al

Within this central group lies a complex series of different status groups including senior civil service, leading representatives of interest groups such as the trade unions and certain professions, financiers, senior officers of armed forces as well as influential politicians.

Besed on these analyses, I divide "managerial elite" into two groups: Professional denagerial Elite (FAE 1)19 and Political Managorial Flits (PMF 2). PME 1 consists of 22 job category group in private management positions such as managing director, company secretary, financial controller, and personal managur etc; it also includes those advocates and accountants, who hold top managerial positions in private firms. Many Asian origin Kenyans can be categorized in this group. PME 2 are those Mtu Mkubwa (Big Men): the several hundred people occupying almost all the political administrative and economic positions such as top level administrative officials or top civil servants in both Central Covernment and Covernment institutions, chairmen and executive directors of parastatal organizations, MPs, and Ministers etc: here each "Mtu" creates his own pation-client network: ethnic and regional criteria may be important; loyalty and competence are also important. 20

However, in a society like Kenya where the current period is one of transition, continuity and change, it becomes difficult to decide who is a member of PME 1 and PME 2, a difficulty which Abercyombie and Urry refer to as the "boundary problem." From Table 1, it is clear that decisions as to where the boundaries of this group lie becomes relatively arbitrary. Therefore, as Nicola Swainson has correctly pointed out: 22

In general, the network of ownership and management outlined above shows a strong everlop between class places within the bourgedists between bureaucratic and political positions and the professions. It is a mistake, therefore, in the Kenyan context to distinguish a separate bureaucratic class. Also, at this stage of accumulation there is not a high degree of separation between the owning and managing classes, who are often interlinked. (caphasis added)

Similarly, Crawford Young argues that "central to the problematic of class in Africa is the pace of change and the indeterminancy of categorics." Indeed, there is

TABLE 1: Kenya's Top Fifty Directors (by number of director-ships)

| a. | Nationality | African/citizen | non-African/ Citizua | Others | (Europeans) |
|----|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------|-------------|
| | 1967 | opoleko 5 ininoso | 4 | 41 | 50 |
| | 1974 | 1.6 | 50 | 1.3 | = 49 |
| | 1984 | 32 | 11 | 7 | = 50 bnud |
| | Was the second of the second of | | | | |

b. Profession

Political Mana-- Paerial Elite: M Civil servant & E politicians etc. a

Professional
Managerial
Elite: Advocates,
accountants, top
managers in
private local/
foreign firms, etc.

| 1965 | 7 | 15 | od 419 A = 22 |
|-------------|---------------------------|----|---------------|
| 1974 | 1.3 | 21 | = 34 |
| 1984 | 18 | 14 | = 32 |
| (only Afric | eans) (11 M.P. 7 Civil | | |
| | Servant) | | |

Source: Nicola Swainson, The Development of Corporate

Capitalism in Kenya 1918 - 1977, Backeley:
University of California Press, 1980, p.201;
and computed by the author from Company Registrar at Sheria House.

the possibility that certain occupations, chiefly those involving high-level manpower, are becoming indistinguishable from "managerial elite" in contemporary Kenya. Therefore, the purpose of the following is to find out some facts and figures which can identify the social position of those individuals who occupy positions in the "managerial elite" in contemporary Kenya.

HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF AFRICANIZATION AND SOCIAL POSITION OF MANAGERIAL ELITE IN CONTEMPORARY KENYA.

One of the difficulties involved in the study of a managerial elite (ME), of course, concerns its actual social position: position which is the "possible degree of concrete difference from the 'interests' of"24 the other societal groups. Any attempt to formulate the definite social position of ME which would gain unanimous acceptance is difficult. One reason is that social position of ME means different things to different societies. as Theda Skoopel correctly notes, this perspective makes it "virtually impossible even to raise the possibility that fundamental conflict of interests might arise between the existing dominant class or set of groups, on the one hand, and the state rulers, on the other."25 What she says is that a social position of a societal group in a certain society has to be based on its interests, what determines the conditions of existence of this societal group vis-r-vis the other societal groups. Similarly, in the Kenyan context, the Ndegwa Report 1971 in its paragraph 31 indicates: "We consider that all those who serve the Republic: 26

- ii) should not subordinate their duties to their private interests nor put themselves in a position where there is a conflict between their duty to the state and their private interests;
- iii) should not outside their official duties be associated with any financial or other activities in circumstances where there could be suspicion that their position or official information available to them was being turned to their private gains or that of their associates.

The analytical focus of those approaches is the subjective attitudes and interests-involved of those key personnel as they interact with other significant individuals or groups in a changing environment.

However, our interest in this section is not so much the social mobility or the interests of the ME, but the social position of the ME in centemperary Kenyan society vis-a-vis the other societal groups. In particular, I wish to consider the historical aspects of Africanization and in this respect, to ask first, how different are the characteristics of the ME as a social group, from the other social groups in post-colonial Kenya?; second. how wide is the gulf?. These questions, it should be emphasized, do not trise from simple quantitative indications that there is a marked and recognizable disparity in the salaries and wages carned by different fractions of social groups. It must therefore involve reference to their position of apportunity and of access to political power and economic wealth which "generate endemic conflicts" of social group interests.

Before Kenya achieved its national independence in December 1963, a fundamental determinant of the nature of its oconemy and of the policies of the state was the implementation of Britain's declared policy toward its colonies - the policy of promoting rapidly the political and economic and cultural development in Kenya. This colonial policy toward its colonies cranted the structure of underdevelopment and social differentiation in Kenya both on the level of production and at the revel of exchange. The mechanisms which the colonial state employed to disintegrate the indigenous people and subsume them to the logic of capitalist accumulation are well understood and need not be restated here. What is of interest is the pattern of social differentiation and the social relations that developed in Kenya during this period. The colonial state not only created the structure of the underdeveloped economy but it also destroyed and created entire social classes.

In order to believe its aim, the colonial state employed many types of mechanisms. First, the creation of the "White Highland" in and of itself denied to the African farmers some of the best farm land in the country. This was done through the enactment of the Crewn Land Ordinance, 27 which empowered the colonial state to central land, to extinguish African rights of compreship, to lease or sell or 'alienate' land to men-Africans. Some of statistics indicate that "by 1901, there were 13 British settlers", 28 but "by the year 1950, about 3,000 white settlers owned, with secure tenure of 99 years, 16,700 square miles of the best land while about 5% million Africans had 52,000 acres of the remainder, without security of tenura". Although "the Europeans cultivated less than one-tenth on the land they held, they took over the best and most fertile land in Kenya". 29

the European settlers' effort to recruit labour from the "reserves" through direct contacts as well as the chiefs and headmen. Effort to create such a stable, reliable and cheap labour force were carried out through the Legislative Council and other state apparatuses on the period between 1920 and 1950. The measures ranged from direct taxation to use of force. Taxation, for instance, was used to provide the European settlers with cheap labour. "Every ablo-bodied African over the age of 18 had to pay the colonial state a poll tax of up to 24/= a year." Those who were unable to make a living in the "native reserves" were 'encouraged' to go to work on the European plantations. The method was approved as far back as 1913, when the East African Standard wrote: 31

We consider the taxation is the only possible method of compelling the native to leave his reserve for the purpose of seeking work. Only in this way can the cost of living be increased for the native.... it is on this that the supply of labour and the price of the labour depend.

These measures forced Africans to work either on the estates or in the urban areas for wages which were never expected to cover the bare minimum of subsistance for the African labourers or their families. So by the years 1952 and 1953, "some 90,000 persons in Kiambu (Kikuyu reserves near Nairobi) 'might be without means of support within a short time". The and around Nairobi, there were 10,000 African families living without proper shelters". These areas therefore tended to be drawn into a whole vicious circle of cumulative underdevelopment and social differentiation.

Lastly, the colonial state enacted measures which restricted the Africans' effort to enter cash crop projuction or trade on their own account. One of the measures taken was to establish various commodity beards: the <u>Imperial Ordinance Merch 1931</u> created the Land and Agricultural Bank, which was to contribute a major source of credit for colonial settlers. For instance, under the <u>Credit to African (Centrol) Ordinance of 1943</u>, which replaced earlier measures, lending to Africans by non-Africans was prohibited not only by banks but also by non-African wholesalers.

Moreover, natives were supposed to trade within the "native markets": 35

No person shall within a sone of three miles' radius from the external boundaries of any market specified in Schedule I herete hawk, sell, barter or expose for sale or barter any produce specified in Schedule II herete without written permission of the District Commissioner: provided that, where two such markets are within three miles of each other, each of these shall be deemed to be excluded from three mile sone of the other.

Therefore, natives in these areas were neither allowed to grow cash crops nor to trade on their own account, but were forced to provide cheap labour for the production of agricultural materials, which accounted for ever half of Kenya's export earnings, for the serving of metropolitan needs. Labour power was then transfermed into a commodity.

nuring this period, as Dr. Gachuki correctly pointed out, athe main interest of the colonial power was to develop the colony into a supplier of raw materials, mainly agricultural, for British industries as well as a market for these industries. 36

Tables 2 and 3 show total foreign investment in Kenya during this period. From these Tables, it is clear that before the Second World War, foreign investment in Kenya remained lew and was largely deno intrated in primary industries that were mainly of an extractive nature, 37 but there was a great increase after the War. The main reason for this increase is that "during the War, the colonial office emphasized the need to exploit colonial resources for the benefit of the war-battled British economy: i.e., to help earn dellars to offset the rising dellar deficit of the 'mother country'. "38 The largest combines' interests in investing in Kenya during this period included, large mercantile houses such as Smith, Mackenzie and Mitchell Cutts and Dalasty,: United Africa Co., a subsidiary of Unilevers, which took ever a number of firms; Brooke Bonds acquired ten estates, Bata, Schweppes and others opened factories. 39

The patterns of de-indigenization we have been describing occurred in one form or another throughout colonial Kenya. What is particularly interesting in this study is the division and the organization of the whole society on racial grounds. In other words, the colonial system spawned three new social groups which are important for our discussion. The main characteristics of each of the social strata are summarized in Table 4. Nationalism emerged within the context of such social strata, leading to the Mau Mau struggle. The burgedning group of African landless and the Mau Mau struggle based upon the demand for equal rights of the majority of African population to these of "White settler aristocracy" (with regard to access to land, each crop production, trade and finally political representation) made this strata shaky.

Table 2: The Principal Fereign-based Companies in Kenya before 1945

| Date | Mame of Firm | Type of Business | Parent Company & Country of Origin | | |
|------------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| Agricu Estato | lture and | or the roll women's find is bearly story the Park s | Kunya dari'ng thi | | |
| 1924 | African Hibglands Produce Co; | ree | James Finlay, U.K. | | |
| 1924 | Kenya Tea Co. | Tea and Coffee | Brooke Bond, U.K. | | |
| 1931 | Anglo-French Sisal Co. | Sisal Planta- tions | British/French | | |
| 1907 | East African Tobacec Co: | Tobacco Trading Tobacco and Cigarette Manu- Facture (1934) | British American Tobacco, U.K. | | |
| 1932 | East African Tanning and Extract Co. | Wattle Bark and Extract | Natal Tanning and Extract, Forestal Land and Timber, U.K. | | |
| 1936 | E.A. Sigal Estate Limited | es, Sisal Production | Mitchell Cotts: U.K. | | |
| 1906 | British East Africa Corporatio | Agents, Exporters on of Primary Produce | Mitchell Cotts U.K. | | |
| Tradir | ייָר | | | | |
| 1920 | Bird and Co., | Marchants, Trans- porters, Shipping, | | | |
| | (Africa) Ltd., | Preight, Ward- housing | | | |
| 1920 | Gibson and Co., | Agents, Exportors of Primary Pro- duco | Cibson and Co., U.K. | | |
| 1934 | Helland Africa Line | Shipping and Ward- housing | Notherlands | | |
| 1924 | Gailey and Roberts | Import and Distri- bution of Agricul- tural Machinery, etc., | | | |
| | | | | | |

tempeditable design to train and graph of the free common to the common of the common

| Date | Name of Firm | Type of Business | Parent Company & Country of Origin |
|------------------|---|--|--|
| Manufa Minera | ecturing and | | Caaca Xoonyagaya |
| | Magadi Soda Co., Limited | Extraction of Soda | E: African Syndi- cate (taken over by I.C.T. in 1923 U.K. |
| 1922 | East African Power and Ligh- ting | Generation of Electrical Power | Power Securities, Balfour Bearty Co., U.K. |
| 1920 | East African Breweries | Beer | Ind Ccope, U.K. |
| 1933 | East African Portland Coment | Cement Clinkon Grinding | Associated Port- land Coment, U.K. |
| 1935 | Leibig | Ment Processing | Loibig, U.K. |
| ource: | Press, 1978, p.51 | , ed. <u>Readings on the nya</u> , Nairobi. Oxford | Multinational University |
| | A ATTACK TO A SEC | | |

TABLE 3: New Registered Companies in Kenya

| Year | Number of Companies | Capital investment |
|------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1938 | 52 | and throws chang |
| 1950 | 221 | £ 763,000 |
| 1951 | | £ 8,749,000 |
| | ?48 | £ 12,526,000 |

Source: Kenya National Archives, MAC/KEN/34/1, Kenya State of Emergency, Kenya Committee in Lendon, 1952 -56

TABLE 4: THE COLONIAL SOCIAL STRUCTURE

| Structural Position | Race | Attributes |
|--|----------|---|
| | | Foreign |
| | | "White" |
| First (Upper) class ELITE or ARISTOCRACY | European | Minority Paternalistic Culturally homogeneous Religiously homogeneous (Christian) |
| | | Monopoly of social power Agents of metropolitan system. Power based on political domination Highly organized |
| Second (Middle) Class ECONOCRACY | Asian | Foreign Coloured (Asiatic) Minority British subject from India Economically strong but politically weak Culturally homogeneous though divided into castes Religiously heterogeneous (Meslem, Hindu, etc.) |
| | | Clients in the colonial economy and aspiring to political partnership |
| | | Politically loyalty to Fairly well organized |
| | | Indigenous Black Overwholming majority |
| Third (Lower) Class | African | Least power (but politicall powerful) |
| | VILICEU | Culturally heterogeneous Religiously heterogeneous Economically exploited Unorganized |

Source: Tersis B. Kabwegyere, The Politics of State Formation:
The Nature and Effects of Colonialism in Uganda,
Nairobi: East African Literature Bureau, 1974, p.108.

During colonial period, the dominant mode of production - generally based on the production of cash crops and other primary products for the international market was not owned nor controlled by the indigenous social groups. The advent of political independence signalled the initial stage of transformation of direct control over the economy. For instance, in 1960, the total population was estimated to be 8.1 million of which 7.3 million were Africans and 169,000 Asians, the European population numbered 61,000. There are no adequate data of racial distribution of money income, but from Tables 5 and 6, it is clear that despite the overwhelming numerical preponderance of Africans, non-Africans received a high proportion of the total. Table 5 shows that 92 percent of the Europeans received incomes ever £ 400 p.a. while only 0.5 percent of Africans were in this income group. 40 Similarly, Table 6 shows that Europeans deminated the top superscale and professional posts whilst Asians dominated the intermediate supervisory and technical posts. It also illustrates the slow pace of Africanization in the administration. Of the 123 superscale posts only one is held by an African.

However, the wave of indigenization and the expansion of state apparatuses during this transitional period accelerated the process of the rise of "a small, readily distinguishable group" and capital accumulation within the nation-state. This advent has sometimes been a potent force in motivating the clite group to give their best to the nation. In the words of one of their chief spokesmen in the Government: 41

...the predominance of non-Kenyans in the ownership, management and control of private enterprise is one of the most glaring defects of the private sector in Kenya. No country can accept the continuance of this kind.... To turn a blind eye to the racial imbalance in the country's economy would be tantamount to inviting racial disharmony and conflicts on the future.

TABLE 5: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF TAXPAYERS IN EACH INCOME CROUP BY RACE 1962

| Two | AFI | RICARS | ASI | LANS | EURO | PEANS | OTH | IERS |
|-----------------|---------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|------|
| Income Group | Number | % | Mumber | 0/ | Number | % | Number | % |
| Juder-£ 120 - | 754,836 | 91.4 | 5,385 | 11.0 | 334 | 1.5 | 19.801 | 86. |
| 1.20- £ 1.59- | | | 2,143 | | 721 | 3.2 | 1.645 | 7. |
| 160- £ 199- | | | 1,625 | 3.3 | 134 | 0.6 | 431 | 1. |
| 200- £ 399- | | | 6,378 | | 571 | 2.5 | 472 | 2. |
| 400 and over | 4,351 | 0.5 | 33,609 | | 20,708 | 92.2 | 674 | 2. |
| rotal | 826,002 | 100.0 | 49,140 | 166.6 | 22,468 | 100.0 | 23,023 | 100 |

Note: These estimates are based on returns for the Graduated Personal Tax. They are inaccurate, but the differences in income distribution brought cut by these data are so striking that they nevertheless illustrate the problem that exists.

Source: Republic of Kenya, Official Report, The National Assembly, First Parliament, Fifth Session. Vol. XIII, 18 December 1967 Cols. 3461 - 3462; Republic of Kenya, Development Plan, 1966 - 1970, Nairobi: Covernment Printer, 1966, pp. 28 - 29 Reprinted from C.J. Gentzel Maure Goldschridt and Docald Rothchild, Government and Politics in Kenya:

A Nation Building Text, Nairobi: East African Publishing House, 1969, p. 77

TABLE 6: THE RACIAL COMPOSITION OF THE ESTABLISHED STAFF IN F.A. RAILWAYS AND HARBOURS AS AT Bist DECEMBER, 1962.

| Salary Group | European | Asian | African | Totals |
|--|----------|--|---|--------|
| Superscale (£ 1,722 - £ 4,600) | 120 | 2 | 1 | 123 |
| Group 'A' (£ 732 - £ 1,665) | 109 | 5 | 7 | 121 |
| Group 'B' Executive (£ 1,275 - £ 1,551) | 55 | 10 10 10 10 10 2 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 | taquiga, sagril Viscoso - | 55 |
| Group 'B' Division I (£ 609 - 1,224) | 665 | 1,151 | 505 | 2,618 |
| Group 'B' Division II (£ 309 - £ 573) | 66 | 2,298 | 1,504 | 3,858 |
| Group 'B' Division III (below 2 309) | | 65 | 6,942 | 7,007 |
| TOTALS | 1,015 | 3,521 | 8,656 | 13,192 |

Source: East African Common Services Organization, Report of the Africanization Committe (Udoji Report), March, 1963, p. 73.

The solution adopted to tackle the 'glaring defect' was the Africanization of the economy and the werkforce. In order to enhance the achievement of the independent Government goal i.e., correcting the pacial imbalance, Africanization was employed as a "viable means of control" over the country's resources. In the 1979 KANU Manifesto, the need to control the economy was emphasized: 42

Independence may be a fact, in terms of politics and laws. But it cannot be meaningful without control - by a Government of the people - of a country's functionings and destiny.

This ambition of Government to control the national economy was expressed in two different acts published right after Sessional Paper No. 10. One, the Immigration Act f 1967, which prohibits "the entry into, and the prosence in Kenya of any person who is not a citizen, unless he is in possession of a valid entry permission or a valid pass"; another, the Trade Licencing Act of 1967, empowers the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to control and regulate all business activities. The Trade Licencing Act (TLA) of 1967 indicated that if "the businessman is conducting a defined business such as wholesale or retail trade within the Act, he is required to hold a trading licence. " The main distinction between citizens and non-citizens within this Act is made in regard to the granting of licences to trade in what are described as "specified goods" or couside a "general business area". Section 5(2) of the Act provides:

no person who is not a citizen of Kenya, shall conduct a business:

- in any place which is not a general business area;
- b) in any specified goods, unless his licence specifically authorises him to do so.

This Act, as Dr. Mutungi notes, was regarded as probably "the most powerful single weapon in the regulation of non-

citizen participation in commerce and industry in Kenya and may be the tool in protecting local business agents competition from the well established foreign dominated enterprises. 46

In the Mational Assembly, Hon. arap Moi, then the Vice-President and Minister for Home affairs announced: 47

The Immigration Act and the Trade Licencing Act have helped, as it had been expected, to increase the participation of our people in the oconomic life of the nation. We are forging ahead with assistance of these two Acts to provide more and more employment opportunities to our people, both in the public and in the private sector..... This is a difficult task which no Government can hope to accomplish overnight. However, with a determined policy of Africanization, we are confident that the task will be carried out smoothly and orderly without disrupting the economy.

These two Acts were supposed to accomplish Africanization of management and business 'as rapidly as possible". 48

Although symilable information on the degree of Africanization of business and management is scanty and unreliable, the data which are presented in Tables 7 and 8 suggest that a considerable degree of Africanization has been accomplished.

TABLE 7: a. Number of Private Companies Registered in Kenya between 1967 - 1973.

| Year | European (%) | Asian (%) | African (%) | Mixed (%) | Total |
|------|--------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| 1967 | 26 | 35 | 23 | 16 | 516 |
| 1968 | 20 | 30 | 33 | 16 | 561 |
| 1969 | 14 | 38 | 28 | 20 | 806 |
| 1970 | 13 | 37 | 30 | 20 | 866 |
| 1971 | 15 | 39 | 33 | 13 | 984 |
| 1972 | 17 | 30 | 37 | 16 | 825 |
| 1973 | 15 | 24 | 46 | 15 | 885 |

TABLE 7: b. Quit Notices Issued to Non-Citizen Traders

| Year/Humber Area | 1969 | 1973 | 1975 | Totel | |
|------------------|--------|-------|------|-------|---------|
| Mairebi | 325 | 230 | 185 | 7.10 | aniero) |
| Central Province | 127 | 19 | 13 | 159 | |
| Coast Province | 16 | 70 | 142 | 228 | |
| Rift Valley | 235 | 53 | 63 | 351 | |
| Myanza Province | 11 | 22 | 51 | 3.4 | |
| Eastern Province | 16 | 13 | 7 | 335 | |
| Western Province | - 10 m |), J. | 5 | 13 | |
| Total | 730 | 418 | 463 | | |

Source: Table 7 a. Nicole Swainson, The Development of Corporate Capitalism in Kenya 1918 - 1977,
California: University of California Press, 1980,
F. 195; Table 7 b. Standard, January 1, 1969,
January 11, 1973 and April 19, 1975.

TABLE 8: EXTENT OF KENYANIZATION 1968 - 1982 (in percentage of each job category held by Kenyan citizens)

| | Top-level Admin and Managers | | Professionals | | Technicians & middle level executives | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|---------------|------|---|------|------|------|------|
| en le mante (A) | 1968 | 1975 | 1932 | 1268 | 1975 | 1982 | 1968 | 1975 | 1982 |
| Agriculture | 54 | 61 | 71 | 66 | 96 | 98 | 76 | 89 | 98 |
| Mining | 19 | 28 | 27 | C | 56 | 36 | 37 | 54 | 88 |
| Manufacturing | 50 | 52 | 28 | 2.4 | 43 | 67 | 51 | 23 | 84 |
| Electricity & Water | so | 81 | 100 | 15 | 51 | 97 | 59 | 88 | 9C |
| Construction | 21 | 35 | 36 | 34 | 41 | 68 | 58 | 71 | 73 |
| Wholesale & Retail | 46 | 59 | 73 | 25 | 52 | 36 | 41 | 85 | 95 |
| Transport | 35 | 54 | 76 | ō | 33 | 86 | 3-1 | 86 | 95 |
| Finance & Insurance | | 52 | 43 | | 48 | 63 | | 86 | 82 |
| Community & Social Service | 72 | 96 | 32 | 49 | 63 | 86 | 75 | 94 | 98 |
| Aggregate | 48 | 75 | 66 | 42 | 61 | 84 | 64 | 37 | 96 |

SOURCE: Computed by the author. Data from Employment and Earnings in the Acdern Sector 1968, 1975 and unpublished 1922. Central Bureou of Statistics, Pairobi, Kenya

For example, from Table 7 b., if we assume 80% of the business affected by 'quit notices' were taken over by Kenyan citizens, it shows a tremendous increase in the number of Kenyan businessmen, both African and non-African, in the trade area. Table 8 also indicates the high degree of Kenyanization of high-level manpower in all industrial sectors. Various aspects of Table 8 are worth noting. First, greater progress has been achieved in all sectors, but the old pattern of top level executives failing to Kenyanize as fast as the other high level manpower remained. Second, the most noticeable shift in the period 1975 and 1982 was the decline of Kenyanization both in Finance and toplevel executives in all industrial sectors. Over the years 1975 and 1982, except professional occupations, the degree of Kenyanization in Finance and Insurance shows negative rate of changes while the sectors such as Electricity and Community Service show the highest degree of Kenyanization in top executive positions; it also indicates the negative rate of changes of top level administrators and managers in all industrial sectors. This means that although most high level manpower in all industrial sectors are Kenyanized, non-citizens in top level executive positions and in important sectors such as Finance and Manufacturing are still playing a very important role in the Kenyan economy. Overall, we can conclude that Kenyanization in both management and business has been quite successfully achieved during the period covered, although we cannot distinguish African citizens from non-African citizens from the above data.

However, this is not the end of the story. It has been found that while important changes occurred in both business and management in independent Kenya, unemployment and gross inequality still continued. This is what led scholars and policy makers to think and act more seriously as far as an Africanization programme is concerned.

Judith Heyer, for instance, has summarized the current position since independence as follows: unless policies

are drastically changed "it's clear that the benefits may never trickle down to all sections of the Kenyan population." Similarly, Nowcojec has aptly described this aspect of Africanization in the following terms: 51

...the policy has promoted apparent and not real change by putting in African replacements in privilege sharing positions instead of ownership and control.

The Report of the Presidential Committee on Unemployment 1902/03 in its paragraph 68 indicates: 52

... No analysis of the unemployment problem can be complete without looking into the share of incomes which different groups of the population receive, as well as the proportion of the population living on or below the margins of real poverty.

These questions raise, as Colin Leys does, numerous issues: "when all is said and done," "it is difficult to know just about what can be expected from Africanization.... anyway." One point to be made clear is that the process of Africanization has gone far enough to ensure that "inequality still remains with respect to interpersonal and regional as well as rural-urban areas." In other words, busides the gain of a better "public image", the small "managerial clite" group which emerged through this process could draw another advantage out of this move.

To get a close look at the income distribution in contemporary Kenya and the social position of the "managerial elite", Tables 9 and 10 are drawn.

TABLE 9: Estimated Income Distribution in Kenya in 1976

| Decile (1) | %Share of Total Income (GDP) (2) | Per Capita Income K£ (3) | Household Income K£ (4) |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| lst | 1.8 | 16.5 | 79 |
| 2nd | 2.0 | 18.3 | 38 |
| 3rd | 2.6 | 23.9 | 1.14 |
| 4th | 3.6 | 33.1 | 158 |
| 5th | 1.0 | 36.7 | 175 |
| 6th | 4.5 | 41.3 | 197 |
| 7th | 5.2 | 47.8 | 228 |
| 8th | 8.3 | 76.2 | 364 |
| 9th | 11.7 | 107.4 | 512 |
| Oth | 56.3 | 517.C | 2466 |

SOURCE: Col. (2) from T. Killick, "Strengthening Kenya's

Development Strategy: Opportunities and Constraints,"

Discussion Paper No. 239, IDS, University of Nairobi,

1976; Cole (3) and (4) were taken from Kenya

Development Plan 1979 - 83, p. 104 and p. 35.

From Table 9, it is shown that while those in the tenth decire receive 56% of the income, the rest of the population share less than 44%. Data on wages and salaries by occupation and level for the private sector, Central Covernment and other public sector inclusive of statutory boards and corporation are presented in Table 10. The comparative "yap" between earnings of those in unskilled jobs requiring little or no education and of those in various other occupations is detailed in the last column of the Table 10. It shows that the managers and directors as an occupational group are the highest income group in the Kenyan society. In the private sector, for example, unskilled labourers have to work about 20 months in order to earn the same amount of wages as managers do. If we consider that this figure is just nominal wages irrespective of the other sources of income to which those privileged groups can get access, the "gap" would widen. It is also shown that Central Government, compared to the other sectors,

IABLY 10: Average Monthly Earnings Among Kenyan Citizens in the modern Sector. 1983.

| # Ut | | | Sarnings | (K.SH) | Number of Months it takes an unskilled labourer to earn the wayes in other | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---------|------------------|-----------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| Job Sector Category | | Private | Contral Gov't | Other Public | occupa Private | tion Central Gov't | Other Public | | |
| 1. | unskilled labourers | 513 | 8 !0 | 624 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |
| 2. | semi-skilled workers | 776 | 975 | 931 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.1 | | |
| 3. | skilled workers | 1,296 | 1,736 | 1,907 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 2.3 | | |
| 4. | teachers | 1,780 | 1,930 | 1,451 | 3.5 | 2.3 | 1.8 | | |
| 5. | general clerks, sccretories, typists, book- keepers, cashiors, etc. | 1,933 | 1,948 | 2,292 | 3.8 | 2.3 | 2.3 | | |
| 6. | technicians, works managers, work-shop foremen, and semi-professional | 2,345 | 2,249 | 3,592 | 1.6 | 2.7 | 4.4 | | |
| 7. | middle level executives, and departmental | | | | | statejan z | | | |
| | heads | 5,813 | 4,304 | 6,575 | 11.3 | 5.7 | 8.0 | | |
| 8. | professionals | 7,104 | 4,552 | 5,945 | 1.3.8 | 5.4 | 7.2 | | |
| 9. | top level administrator general managers, and salaries | | | | | | | | |
| | directors | 10,079 | 10,627 | 12,700 | 19.6 | 12.6 | 15.4 | | |

SOURCE: computed by the author from CBS data

has the smallest "gap" between different societal groups.

Recent research on consumption pattern by Jan Vandermoortele and Rolph V.D. Hoeven is shown in Table 11.55 Although they underestimate the oil consumption in transport which needs a lot of foreign currency, this Table provides the average budget shares for total consumer goods as well as for imported goods. One striking picture in this Table is the high import content of the consumption of the nonagricultural managerial and professional group: almost half of their consumption expenditure is on imported consumer goods as compared to none for peasant farmers, skilled and unskilled agricultural workers. These imported goods are mainly manufactured goods and/or transport. If we categorize ME into non-agricultural employer/professionals, it seems clear that ME receiving a high income have fully acquired European consumption patterns and behaviour and thus corroborate their privileged social position while urban workers and rural peasants living on their inherited shamba in most cases will just secure the survival of his family. They possess impressive cars and fine houses; dress well; entertain themselves in Western way and have become "Men of the People". 56 They are the people to whom other societal groups still respond with deference. A recent executive salary survey shown in Table 12, by Price Waterhouse 57 shows how they enjoy the "upper level" of social status vis-a-vis the other social groups.

CONCLUSION

Throughout this paper, I intended to show that one result of Africanization in contemporary Kenya is the rise of a "managerial elite", which becomes particularly salient where Africanization is still in process. As I suggested back at the start, the issue now is not whether Africanization has been successful in achieving its goal or not, but what has it produced and how has it produced? By looking at the current theory and methodology on "managerial elite", I also intended to show a new method of conceptualizing

| Average | Mon-ag | Mon-ag worker | Non-ag worker | Non-ag | | Ag icul wo ker, | Agricul worker, | W Peasant | Group | |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----|
| ge for all groups | Non-agricultural employer/professional | Non-agricultural worker, unskilled | Non-agricultural worker, skilled | Non-agricultural informal sector | Agricultural employer/professional | iltural , unskilled | iltural , skilled | it farmer | Sector | 100 |
| 32.59 (0.25) | 10.20 (2.90) | 19.58 | 20.14 | 19.95 | 30.01 | 54.92 | 54.06 | 57.04 | \2riculture | |
| 20.21 (1.29) | 15.49 (10.06 | 32.00 | 19.00 | 30.03 | 11.35 (1.71) | 20.01 | 20.01 | 20.00 | Food Manufac- turing | |
| 16.28 (5.49) | 27.56 (13.99) | 10.00 | 18.90 | 18.92 | 19.89 | (O (O | 9.65 | 11.39 | Non-food Manufac- turing | |
| 6.04 (1.65) | 14.70 (8.95) | 8.00 | 5.76 (1.31) | 7.82 | 6.CO (3.43) | 3.57 | 3.34 | 3.51 | Transport | |
| 14.20 (0.71) | 16.96 (4.69) | 11.12 | 20.06 | 10.37 | 17.90 (1.30) | 9.74 | 16.17 | 7.57 | Trade and services | |
| 2.17 (0.68) | 4.40 | 3.03 | 2.75 (C.72) | 0.98 | 3.70 (2.50) | 1.78 | 1.86 | 0.50 | Govern- ment | |
| 8.52 | 16.71 | 16.27 | 13.45 | 11.93 | 11 15 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | Housing (incl. imputed rent) | |
| 100.00 | 100.00 (49.57) | 100.00 | 166.66 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | Total | |

TABLE 12: Average Monthly Salary and Fringe Benefit of Chief Executive in Private Sector

POSITION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

| Industry Sector: | Pharmaceuti- cal & Chemical | Manufac- turing | Freight For- warding | Distribu- tion & Ser. | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Turnover (K& million) | 1-10m | Above 1m | 1-10m | 1-10m | | |
| | KSh. | KSh. | KSh. | KSh. | KSh. | |
| Basic | 33,766.70 | 22,0000 | 18,331 | 17,372 | 17,240 | |
| Bonus | 800 | 800 | - | 372 | 250 | |
| Rent Allowance | Marie Carlos | - | - W | 3 500 | | |
| Company Accommodation | 8 300 | 10 000 | 9 166 | 3 250 | 6 667 | |
| Housing Loan | | | | - | | |
| Car Allowance | 450 | | - | - | 유적인성 | |
| Company Car | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Reimbursement - Car Running Costs | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Car Loan | | | - | | | |
| Utilities | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Domestic Help | 2 people | Yes | - | Yes | Yes | |
| Security | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Provident Fund | 750 | | 23 - | 28 - 65 | | |
| Education Allowance | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | Yes 24 hrs | Yes 24 hrs | s Yes | |
| Entertainment Allowance | 750 | | un d | 47 -40 | £12- | |
| Leave Allowance | 1 100 | 3 334 | 1 500 | 978 | 6 667 | |
| Club Membership | Yes (2) | Yes (2) | Yes (1) | Yes (1) | Yes (1) | |
| Pension Scheme | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Medical Cover Life Insurance | Yes limited 3 years salary | 100% 2 years salary | 100% 3 years salary | 100% 3 years salary | 100% 2 years salary | |

Price Waterhouse Associates Ltd., Executive Salary Survey 1984. Source:

"managerial elite". In so doing, I started with the premise that Africanization can be best understood by a close examination of the "managerial elite" and its social position. But unfortunately, this paper has ranged widely, rather superficially, over current theory and methodology on Africanization and "managerial elite". All I can say in this size of paper is that Africanization itself has produced the "managerial elite", and they are those who are now controlling the national economy. Therefore, further research has to be designed to look at the "managerial elite" and their role in the national economy as the subject of study.

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I am grateful to those who made comments on an earlier draft of this paper. Special thanks to Dr. P.O. Alila and Barbara Crosh from I.D.S., Dr. Michael Chege and Dr. Walter Oyugi, from Department of Covernment and Dr. David Leonard from Berkeley.

With regard to the interchangeability of Kenyanization and Africanization see the <u>Sessional Paper No. 10</u>; <u>African Socialism</u>, and its <u>Application</u> to <u>Planning in Kenya</u>, Nairobi: Covernment Printer, 1935 (paragraphs 78 - 80) which states:

"Africanization is an urgent problem but in any reasonable perspective is likely to be of short term duration.... The problem is rather to reconcile the urgency of the matter with citizenship guarantees and the desire for rapid economic growth ... political equality and equality of opportunity are guaranteed for all citizens as a matter of right. Nevertheless, (racial) imbalances have been inherited from the past and these imbalances must be corrected".

Therefore it can be used interchangeably. However, Kenyan Government stresses more on Africanization than on Kenyanization.

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