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01/08/2008 12:22 PM  
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\*\*\* DRAFT \*\*\*

Subject all in one set: Kenya Updates from December 30 through  
January 6  
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## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/30/2007 11:32 AM  
FROM: Hartwig Schafer, AFRVP  
EXTN: 33720  
TO: RBZ  
SUBJECT: Update on Kenya Elections

1. This brief, prepared Colin Bruce our Country Director in Nairobi, summarizes the outcome of Kenya's general elections which were held on December 27, 2007 and updates on Bank readiness for post-election engagement with the Government.
2. **Results.** The Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK) just announced that President Kibaki was re-elected by a slim margin (46.7 percent to 44.3 percent, or about 230,000 votes). Most members of parliament (MPs) lost their seats, including the Vice President and almost all Cabinet Ministers. The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) has the largest block of MPs so far (98 out of 210). Its leader, Mr. Raila Odinga, was also the chief presidential challenger.
3. **Background.** About 14 million Kenyans were eligible to vote. Turnout was over 70 percent compared to 56 percent in 2002 because of extensive civic education and voter mobilization. Lines were long and some of the 29,000 polling stations opened late. Some 30,000 local and international observers from the Commonwealth, EU, and the US participated. Security was visible and tight but not intrusive.
4. **Voter Concerns.** Pre-election polling indicated that about 62 percent of Kenyans were pleased with the overall performance of the Government. However, voters ranked employment opportunities, educational opportunities, and corruption as their gravest concerns. They cited insecurity and insufficient grassroots projects as other priorities. Urgent action will be needed in all these areas, especially given voter sentiment and the divisiveness of the presidential race.
5. **Post-election Bank Engagement.** Our country strategy--with its growth, equity and governance pillars--already provides a strong analytic and lending platform for Bank collaboration in addressing voter concerns. For example, pilot activities are already ongoing to provide targeted benefits for orphans and vulnerable children, and to support youth enterprises. Analytic work to be released in January 2008 on growth diagnostics, investment climate, firm-level productivity, and corporate governance all show significant progress, and will also serve as benchmarks for assessing future development policy performance.

6. **Current Tensions.** ODM leaders and supporters have not taken the presidential results well, in part because Mr. Odinga had led in the early count and in most of the pre-election polling. However, by election week, credible pollsters reported that his lead had disappeared and that the race was too close to call. The only exit poll showed him trailing. So far, international observers have been unanimous in their view that despite some logistical hitches, the voting and counting were free and fair. The British and American Ambassadors issued statements on Sunday morning expressing "...great confidence..." in the ECK. On Saturday, violence broke out in some cities. It has now subsided but tensions remain very high. Political, business and community leaders are calling for calm.

7. **Nonessential Travel will be suspended.** We are in touch with the Watch Officer and in view of the tense situation and possible escalating violence, we plan to issue shortly a Kiosk Announcement suspending all nonessential mission travel for the time being. All in-country staff are accounted for and are safe, and have been advised to stay at home and "shelter-in-place".

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LET THE WIND BEND YOU BUT NOT BREAK YOU (Chewa Proverb)

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