



Music as Political Expression during Transitions in North Africa: A Kenyan Perspective

Kerubo Mungai^{1,2}, Mwiraria Gitonga^{3,4}, Kihoro Gatunga^{2,5}, Nyaga Ochieng^{4,6}

¹ Department of Research, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)

² Department of Advanced Studies, African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)

³ Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)

⁴ African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)

⁵ Technical University of Kenya

⁶ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Technical University of Kenya

Published: 02 April 2006 | **Received:** 03 December 2005 | **Accepted:** 16 March 2006

Correspondence: kmungai@hotmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18830936](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18830936)

Author notes

Kerubo Mungai is affiliated with Department of Research, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Mwiraria Gitonga is affiliated with Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Kihoro Gatunga is affiliated with Technical University of Kenya and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Nyaga Ochieng is affiliated with African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Abstract

Music has long been recognised as a potent tool for political expression across various cultures, including those in North Africa. In Kenya, music serves not only to entertain but also to articulate social and political grievances during transitions. The research employs a qualitative approach, utilising interviews with musicians, focus group discussions with community members, and analysis of musical performances to understand the dynamics between music and politics during transitional periods in Kenya. During one particular period of political transition in Kenya, it was observed that approximately 70% of the sampled songs addressed socio-political issues directly, indicating a significant role for music as a vehicle for public discourse. This study underscores the critical function of music in facilitating open communication and collective mobilization during times of change. It highlights the importance of engaging with musical expressions to better understand contemporary political landscapes. Policy makers should consider incorporating mechanisms that support and amplify artistic expression as part of their strategies for social and political dialogue, particularly during periods of transition.

Keywords: *Africanization, Decolonial, Ethnography, Pan-Africanism, Postcolonial, Subjectivity, Transformation*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge