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ORIGINS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF MIGRANTS: A SPATIAL
ANALYSIS

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P 11

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ORIGINS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF MIGRANTS IN NAIROBI: SPATIAL ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

Primate cities in developing countries generally are the nodes of economic activity and social life which attract expanding streams of rural-urban migrants. Nairobi, Kenya's national capital and for a long time the hub of the defunct East African Community before its demise in 1977, enjoys primacy thereby attracting migrants from different parts of Kenya. While census data are not suitable for interpreting rural-urban migration, the available data in Kenya permit analysis of origins and characteristics of migrants. For Nairobi, the data sets are adequate because Greater Nairobi is an Extra-Provincial District comparable with other districts and provinces of Kenya.

Rural-urban migration can be studied from two perspectives. First, as lifetime migration which involves a change of residence from the place of birth. Second, as recent migration which involves change of residence from a previous residence during a specified period (usually during the last five years). This paper examines both lifetime and recent migrants in Nairobi, the latter being those who moved to the city by August 1978.

The paper consists of five sections. The first section following this introductory section explains the accessibility of Nairobi; section two discusses data and methodology; the third section traces the origins of migrants; section four examines migrants' characteristics; and the fifth and final section considers policy implications of migrants in Nairobi for the city's development planning. The paper limits itself to internal migration involving the African population since the movements of the non-African population are difficult to trace.

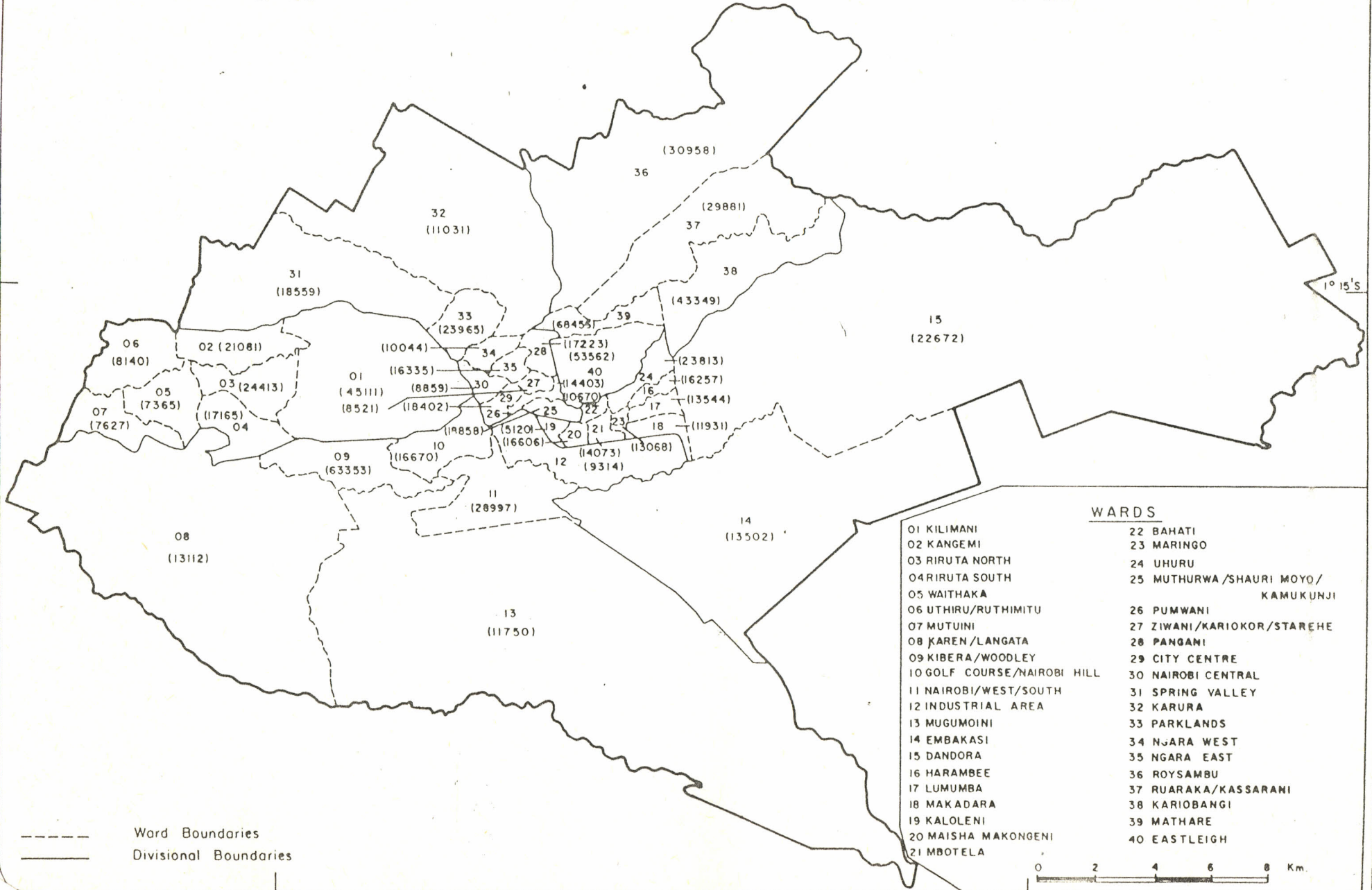
ACCESSIBILITY OF NAIROBI TO THE REST OF KENYA

Nairobi started in 1899 as the breaking point of the Kenya - Uganda Railway which links the seaport of Mombasa on the Indian Ocean and the lake port of Kisumu on Lake Victoria. Soon it grew rapidly to acquire administrative power over Mombasa and Masaku (now Machakos) which was

36° 45' E

37° 00' E

1° 15' S



WARDS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 01 KILIMANI | 22 BAHATI |
| 02 KANGEMI | 23 MARINGO |
| 03 RIRUTA NORTH | 24 UHURU |
| 04 RIRUTA SOUTH | 25 MUTHURWA /SHAURI MOYO/
KAMUKUNJI |
| 05 WAITHAKA | 26 PUMWANI |
| 06 UTHIRU/RUTHIMITU | 27 ZIWANI/KARIOKOR/STAREHE |
| 07 MUTUINI | 28 PANGANI |
| 08 KAREN/LANGATA | 29 CITY CENTRE |
| 09 KIBERA/WOODLEY | 30 NAIROBI CENTRAL |
| 10 GOLF COURSE/NAIROBI HILL | 31 SPRING VALLEY |
| 11 NAIROBI/WEST/SOUTH | 32 KARURA |
| 12 INDUSTRIAL AREA | 33 PARKLANDS |
| 13 MUGUMOINI | 34 NJARA WEST |
| 14 EMBAKASI | 35 NGARA EAST |
| 15 DANDORA | 36 ROYSAMBU |
| 16 HARAMBEE | 37 RUARAKA/KASSARAMI |
| 17 LUMUMBA | 38 KARIOBANGI |
| 18 MAKADARA | 39 MATHARE |
| 19 KALOLENI | 40 EASTLEIGH |
| 20 MAISHA MAKONGENI | |
| 21 MBOTELA | |

----- Ward Boundaries
 _____ Divisional Boundaries

