

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS IN THE DEVOLVED SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE IN KENYA**

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### **Abstract**

*This study evaluates public participation process in the devolved system of governance in Kenya and the extent to which it has taken place for sustainable development. The study was carried out in South Rift counties (Kericho, Bomet and Narok County). The respondents to the questionnaires and interview questions were delimited to members of the public, county executive and county assembly. The study was conducted through analytical survey approach. The target population was 1,051,077; and using simple random sampling, a sample size of 384 was determined and using purposive sampling techniques, six people were interviewed. Data collection instruments used was: questionnaires, interview schedules and document analysis. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics and the results presented in tables. Arising from the study findings it emerged clearly that; lower level public participation process such as information dissemination and public consultation has been adopted by county governments but they have failed to adopt higher levels of public participation processes such as public involvement, collaboration and empowerment.*

*Keywords: Public Participation, Participation Process, Sustainable Development, Devolution, Devolved Government, Development Activities*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Participation has captured the imagination and hopes of politicians, policy makers and practitioners alike (Jochum, Pratten and Wilding, 2005; Cornwall, 2008). Across the globe –from Brazil to India to the United States - we have witnessed ‘an explosion’ of interest in participation over the past decade; this is particularly true for public participation (Dunn, 2007). In keeping

with efforts to promote good governance, many African countries have also identified public participation as a key principle to promote and uphold good governance. For example, in adopting the African charter on democracy, elections and governance in 2007, the 53 member states of the African Union committed themselves to, amongst others; promote the conditions that are necessary to foster citizen participation and transparency (African Union's Commitment to Human Rights, 2007). Public participation is a useful tool to promote the involvement of the public in governance. The World Development Report (2000), states that governments at all levels have begun to understand the importance of inclusive, participatory and consensual models of public participation. As a result, various strategies are applied to consult and engage with members of the public in progressive nations across the globe.

In Brazil, the most common stated example of effective public participation is the municipal participatory budgeting initiative, Sprague (2000). This participatory process is one of the creative programmes developed by the city of Porto Alegre in Brazil. The aim of the participatory budgeting process is to address severe disparities in the living standard of the city residents, by bringing these residents on board during participatory processes. In India, a common stated example of effective public participation is the community and sustainable forest management. Sustainability of forest management comes through community participation at all levels from planning, intervention and monitoring, Kotwal (2008). In this regard a bottom-up approach is applied wherein communities are mobilised to participate in all forestry interventions.

In Uganda, efforts to promote public participation have taken the form of both policy frameworks and the development of implementation modalities. The government took appropriate steps to put in place supporting legislative framework to promote public participation. In this regard, the enactment of the 1993 Local Councils Statute was a way of broadening the space for citizen participation, Kakumba and Nsingo (2008). The legislation was designed in such a way that it facilitates effective involvement of communities in articulating their needs and influencing programme planning and implementation. The main aim was to foster citizen participation in the processes of rural development. In addition, according to the United Nations Development Report (2006), Uganda has been able, through public participation to significantly reduce the levels of HIV/AIDS. In South Africa, since 1994 the government has applied several initiatives to effect public participation. These include methodologies such as *izimbizo*, Exco-meets the people, public hearings, ward committees, community development workers, Citizen Satisfaction Surveys and Citizens Forums. In addition, various structures such as the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) and the National Anti-Corruption Forum were established to create a platform for public participation.

At independence in 1963, Kenya was a constitutionally devolved state with various regions (*majimbo* in Kiswahili) vested with responsibilities of collection of taxes and provision and maintenance of basic social services (health and education) and minor roads. But by December 1964, the country had reverted to a centralized system of government with the regions becoming provinces as had been the case earlier. In the subsequent year, the government formulated a premier policy paper, *Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1965 on African Socialism and its Application to Planning in Kenya*, (Republic of Kenya, 1965) in which it was stated that the power to control resource use resided with the state but planning was to be extended to the provinces and local authorities. The 1971 report on public service structure recommended that the planning process be extended to the district and divisional levels.

Over the years, Kenya has progressively shifted from a centralized to a decentralized form of governance. This paradigm shift was due to the shortfalls that are often characteristic of highly centralized government systems. The shortfalls include administrative bureaucracies and inefficiencies, misappropriation of public resources, lack of public participation and the marginalization of local communities in development processes (The Institute for Social Accountability - TISA, 2010). Therefore, there was a need to make devolution a permanent feature in Kenya by anchoring it in the constitution. According to International Commission of Jurists, ICJ (2013) devolution is simply defined as the process of transferring decision-making and implementation powers, functions, responsibilities and resources to legally constituted, and popularly elected local governments. Devolution in Kenya is based on the supremacy of the Constitution, sovereignty of the people and the principle of public participation.

The adoption of the new constitution in 2010, in Kenya, marked the beginning of a new dispensation where there are two levels of government: central government and county governments. Article 176 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya, state that there shall be a county government for each county, consisting of a county assembly and a county executive and article 174 states that the objects of the devolution of government is (a) to promote democratic and accountable exercise of power; (b) to foster national unity by recognizing diversity; (c) to give powers of self-governance to the people and enhance the participation of the people in the exercise of the powers of the State and in making decisions affecting them; (d) to recognize the right of communities to manage their own affairs and to further their development, (Republic of Kenya, 2010).

Public participation is a political principle, which has been recognized as a right – the right to public participation. Article 10(2) of the Constitution of Kenya, holds that the national values and principles of governance include (a) patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power, rule of law, democracy and participation of the people (d) sustainable

development. Other constitutional provisions that provide for public participation in the Constitution of Kenya 2010, include: Article 69(1) d which provides for public participation in the management, protection and conservation of the environment, Article 118 which mandates parliament to facilitate public participation in the legislative and other business of parliament, Article 174 (c) which provides for public participation as an object of devolution, Article 201(a) which provides for openness and accountability including public participation in financial matters as a principle of public finance and others related to the right of recall and in constitutional amendment processes, (Republic of Kenya, 2010).

### **Research Objective**

To evaluate public participation process in the devolved system of governance in Kenya.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **The Concept of Sustainable Development**

The concept of sustainable development finds its roots in the Brundtland Report. It is generally accepted that sustainable development calls for a convergence between the three pillars of economic development, social equity, and environmental protection. Sustainable development is a visionary development paradigm; and over the past 20 years governments, businesses, and civil society have accepted sustainable development as a guiding principle, made progress on sustainable development metrics, and improved business and NGO participation in the sustainable development process (Sustainable development: From Brundtland to Rio 2012 Report, 2010). According to Aregbeshola (2009), sustainable development is essentially a political programme for change adopted by governments throughout the world. According to Afgan, Bogdan & Duić (2004), sustainable development is defined as a process of change in which the exploitation of resource, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development and the institutional change are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations. According to Dalal-Clayton (2000) sustainable development is economic and social development that meets the needs of the current generation without undermining the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

According to Cashmore (2007) it is widely accepted that sustainable development involves harmonising social, economic and environmental concerns in development process and project planning. He maintains that for the development project to be sustainable, the community needs to be involved early on in terms of planning, designing, implementing and evaluating (monitoring). Iyer-Raniga and Treloar (2000) concur with this view and argue that public participation needs to be integrated into planning if a sustainable path to the future is to

be achieved. Agyeman and Angus (2003) are of the opinion that a sustainable community is one “where wider questions of social needs, welfare and economic opportunities are integrally related to environmental limits”. To this effect, Melnick, Mcneely, Navarro, Schmidt-Traub & Sears (2005) suggest that if the governments are more transparent and sensitive to needs of the public, participation can improve the quality of economic, social and environmental decisions, therefore increasing long-term sustainability. Doelle and Sinclair (2006), has also argued that it is the consensus of the interested and affected parties that provides the best indicator to measure the development and project sustainability rather than the use of predetermined rules or goals.

### **The Concept of Devolution**

Devolution is considered a form of political decentralization, involving a full transfer of responsibility, decision-making, resources and revenue generation to a local level of public authority that is autonomous and fully independent from the devolving authority. Decentralization is often linked to concepts of participation in decision-making, democracy, equality and liberty from higher authority (Dutta, 2009). According to Ndege and Brooks (2013) the writers of Kenya’s constitution were bold in their quest to devolve public governance and resources to the grassroots. Previously, the “national cake” was exclusively shared from Nairobi, with the presidency having an inordinate say in who got what. More often than not, these decisions were premised neither on national good, nor on strategic considerations. According to ICJ (2013) devolution in Kenya is based on the supremacy of the Constitution, sovereignty of the people and the principle of public participation. Devolution is one of the concepts in the Constitution that has brought about a complete overhaul in Kenya’s system of governance. This is because it is a new aspect in the Kenyan governance. The need for Devolution has been seen in many countries and it is informed by the need to have power sharing, checks and balances in governance and the decentralization of resources.

### **Public Participation**

A great deal of scholarly work has been conducted to define the concept and practice of public participation in general. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) (2007) has recognized that the terms “public participation,” “citizen participation,” or “stakeholder participation” continue to be used interchangeably. They noted that while different organizations sometimes use different terminologies to explain the phenomena of engagement, be it “consultation,” “public consultation,” “public participation,” or “stakeholder involvement”, they most often express similar concepts and principles. Public participation is the involvement of all parties who may

potentially have an interest in a development or project, or be affected by it. It entails a wide range of activities that can range from providing information, through consultation to direct involvement of the public in aspects of the decision-making process.

Participation is the highest order of public engagement. The term participation conceptually refers to 'being part of' and 'taking part in' and carries an active component within it (Mdunyelwa, 2008). According to International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) (2007), Public participation implies that the public's contribution will influence the decision. Public participation is viewed as a tool, intended to inform planning, organizing or funding of activities. The objective behind public participation is to facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision made by government. Participation is the process through which stakeholders' input and share control over development initiatives, decisions and resources which affect them, (Odhiambo and Taifa, 2009). Okello, Oenga and Chege (2008) further define it as a process whereby stakeholders influence policy formulation, alternative designs, investment choices and management decisions affecting their communities. Public participation is seen as a form of empowerment and is a vital part of democratic governance. Participation has greatly contributed to the sustainability of development initiatives, strengthened local capacity, given a voice to the poor and marginalized and linked development to the people's needs (Odhiambo and Taifa, 2009).

According to Report of the Task Force on Devolved Government, TFDG (2011), the constitution is providing a major paradigm shift from a system of extreme exclusion and marginalisation to a system that puts emphasis on inclusion and participation of all sectors of the society in the affairs and benefits of governance. Participation enhances transparency of interaction in the public domain through such facilities as notice board announcements of job opportunities , recruitments information; social/participatory budgeting; opening the budget process to citizen participation; procurement transparency and oversight committees; monthly revenue and expenditure Report; quarterly development status reports; bi-annual monitoring report prepared through the Sub-County Citizen Forums; County and Sub-County Assemblies ; monthly public revenue and expenditure forums; and quarterly face-to-face question and answer sessions with the governor and senator of each County. The legislative elements of each of these instruments and platforms for citizen participation may vary from sector to sector and from County to County.

The overall responsibility to facilitate and report on public participation in the county government is on the Governor of the County Government. This is to be done through the various departments and agencies of the county and at all levels of decentralization (Sub-county, ward, village, urban and city areas). In the case of the County Assembly, the

responsibility is on the speaker of the County Assembly and Chairpersons of various Committees of the House.

The County Government Act, 2013, provides further guidelines for the realisation of the goal of the Constitution of ensuring the participation of the people in governance. According to section 87 of the Act, Citizen participation in county governments shall be based upon the following principles: a) Timely access to information, data, documents, and other information relevant or related to policy formulation and implementation; b) Reasonable access to the process of formulating and implementing policies, laws, and regulations, including the approval of development proposals, projects and budgets, the granting of permits and the establishment of specific performance standards; c) Protection and promotion of the interest and rights of minorities, marginalized groups and communities and their access to relevant information.

According to ICJ (2013), in line with these principles, several provisions have been highlighted below as key to public participation at the county level. Firstly, the Constitution in Article 118 and 196 requires Parliament and county assemblies respectively to conduct their business in an open manner, and hold their sittings and those of their committees, in public; and facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of the assembly and its committees, (Republic of Kenya, 2010). More importantly, the Constitution prohibits both houses from excluding the public, or any media, from any sitting unless in exceptional circumstances where the speaker has determined that there are justifiable reasons for doing so. The County Government Act also provides for citizen participation in a number of areas. Under section 15, it grants any person power to petition the county assembly to consider any matter within its authority, including enacting, amending or repealing any of its legislation. Secondly, under section 27 of the Act, it empowers the electorate in a county ward to recall their member of the county assembly before the end of the term of the member. Last but not least, the Act specifies the structure that the county government should put in place to facilitate citizen participation.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted through analytical survey approach. In analytical research, the researcher has to use facts or information already available, and analyze these to make a critical evaluation of the material. The study was carried out in the three counties located in the South Rift, Kenya; these are Kericho County, Bomet County and Narok County. They are located in the southern part of the former Rift Valley Province of Kenya. In this research, quantitative data was obtained through closed-ended questionnaires and qualitative data through open-ended questionnaires and semi-structured interviews.

The target population for this study was 1,051,077; derived from Kenya Population and Housing Census of 2009 of adults who are 18 years old and above residents of the three counties. This study employed simple random sampling technique for members of the public who responded to questionnaire and purposive sampling for the representatives of county executive and county assembly who were interviewed. Therefore six people were interviewed from the three counties. The sample size was determined by the formula suggested by Fisher, *et al* (1983) for estimating sample sizes in social surveys as shown below;

$$n = \frac{Z^2 pq}{d^2} = \frac{(1.96)^2 \times 0.5 \times 0.5}{(0.05)^2} = 384$$

The total population of persons who are 18 years and above in the three counties are 1,051,077 (KPHC, 2009); this are more than 10,000, therefore according to Fisher, *et al* (1983) the sample size will be 384. A sample size of 128 was picked from Kericho County, 121 from Bomet County and 135 from Narok County for purposes of answering questionnaires.

Questionnaires, interview schedule and document analysis were used as the main tools for collecting data. The research collected both primary and secondary data. Primary data was obtained by administering questionnaires and using interview schedules, while the secondary information was collected through document analysis which was review of the relevant literature.

Data analysis for this study was done using the SPSS. Qualitative data analysis involved such processes as coding, categorizing and making sense of the essential meanings of the phenomenon. Quantitative data was analyzed through descriptive statistics and presented in tables and pie charts, as per the objective: data was analyzed in terms of counts/frequencies, percentages and descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation).

Participation in the study was voluntary. The research objectives were explained to the participants verbally and in writing. The following logistical and ethical issues were considered: informed consent, privacy and confidentiality, anonymity and researcher's responsibility.

## **ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Public Participation Process**

The respondents were asked to respond to several statements and interviewees to give the opinions/information intended to describe public participation process in the devolved system of governance in Kenya. The results are presented in the tables below; findings were also analyzed and discussed.

**Frequency of involvement in the development activities in the county**

The respondents to the questionnaire were asked to respond to the question, “How often have you been involved by the county government and/ or county assembly in the following development activities in the county?”

The respondents were given choices to tick; Never- 1, Rarely- 2, Sometimes- 3, Frequently- 4 or Always- 5. The findings are as shown in the table 1 below.

Table 1: Involvement in development activities in the county

	<b>N</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
Involved in Budget Making process	316	1.0	5.0	1.519	0.8598
Involved in Law making & Legislation process by county assembly	316	1.0	5.0	1.472	0.8596
Involved in Vetting of Public officers	316	1.0	5.0	1.351	0.7082
Involved in policy making & formulation process	316	1.0	5.0	1.579	0.8820
Involved in development planning & proposals writing	316	1.0	5.0	1.753	1.0522
Involved in Implementation of development projects and programs	316	1.0	5.0	1.870	1.0566
Involved in M&E of development projects/ programs	316	1.0	5.0	1.829	1.2303

The table 1 above shows results for seven questions on involvement in development activities. First; Involvement in budget making process has a mean of 1.519 and standard deviation of 0.8598; which means majority of the respondents rarely participate and their responses are not so dispersed from the mean. Secondly; Involvement in law making and legislation process has a mean of 1.472 and standard deviation of 0.8596; which means majority of the respondents rarely participate and their responses are not so dispersed from the mean. Thirdly; Involvement in vetting of Public officers has a mean of 1.351 and standard deviation of 0.7082; which means majority of the respondents rarely participate and their responses are not so dispersed from the mean. Fourth; Involvement in policy making and formulation process has a mean of 1.579 and standard deviation of 0.8820; which means majority of the respondents rarely participate and their responses are not so dispersed from the mean. Fifth; Involvement in development planning & proposals writing has a mean of 1.753 and standard deviation of 1.0522; which means majority of the respondents rarely participate and their responses are not so dispersed from the

mean. Sixth; Involvement in implementation of development projects and programs has a mean of 1.870 and standard deviation of 1.0566; which means majority of the respondents rarely participate and their responses are not so dispersed from the mean. Last but not least; Involved in monitoring and evaluation of development projects/ programs has a mean of 1.829 and standard deviation of 1.2303; which means majority of the respondents rarely participate and their responses are not so dispersed from the mean.

The above findings shows that majority of the people have not been involved by the county governments or assemblies. This could be because county governments have not taken public participation seriously or they are not willing to involve the public fully by providing information and facilitating public participation. It means; most of development activities and other process have been undertaken with little or no input from the public. According to Cashmore (2007), for the development project to be sustainable, the community needs to be involved early on in terms of planning, designing, implementing and evaluating (monitoring). Public participation is viewed as a tool, intended to inform planning, organizing or funding of activities.

According to county officers interviewed public participation process is as follows: public participation on budget is normally done once a year before the end of the financial year. It is taken to the public after compilation; both proposals from the executive arm and the assembly arm are compiled to come up with a single budget. Members of the public are normally called upon to provide information on suitability of the officers nominated to hold a public office. On development plans, they originate from the executive. On implementation of development projects, there is a county assembly's committee on implementation whose work is to inspect various projects. A report is normally written with recommendations handed to sectoral committees for further actions.

### ***Public participation process facilitated by county government in the county***

The respondents to the questionnaire were asked to respond to the question, "To what extent do you agree with following statements on public participation process facilitated by county government/assembly during; law and policy making, budget making, development planning, implementation and evaluation of development projects in the county? The respondents were given choices to tick; strongly disagree- 1, disagree- 2, undecided- 3, agree- 4 or strongly agree- 5. The findings are as shown in the table 2 below.

Table 2: Public participation process in the county

	<b>N</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
The public is provided with adequate, balanced and objective information.	316	1.0	4.0	2.003	0.8300
The public is consulted adequately to obtain feedback, alternatives and/or decisions.	316	1.0	5.0	1.972	0.9339
The public is involved throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are understood and considered.	316	1.0	5.0	2.127	0.9903
The county government/assembly collaborates and partner with the public in decision-making.	316	1.0	5.0	2.117	1.0026
The public is empowered to make final decision-making on issues concerning the county government/assembly.	316	1.0	5.0	1.965	1.0992

The table 2 above shows responses to the five statements on public participation process. First; the public is provided with adequate, balanced and objective information; has a mean of 2.003 and standard deviation of 0.8300; which means majority of the respondents disagree with the statement and their responses are not so dispersed from the mean. Secondly; the public is consulted adequately to obtain feedback, alternatives and/ or decisions; has a mean of 1.972 and standard deviation of 0.9339; which means majority of the respondents disagree with the statement and their responses are not so dispersed from the mean. Thirdly; the public is involved throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are understood and considered; has a mean of 2.127 and standard deviation of 0.9903; which means majority of the respondents disagree with the statement and their responses are not so dispersed from the mean. Fourth; the county government/ assembly collaborate and partner with the public in decision-making; has a mean of 2.117 and standard deviation of 1.0026; which means majority of the respondents disagree with the statement and their responses are not so dispersed from the mean. Last but not the least; the public is empowered to make final decision-making on issues concerning the county government/ assembly; has a mean of 1.965 and standard deviation of 1.0992; which means majority of the respondents disagrees with the statement and their responses are not so dispersed from the mean.

Public participation process entails: informing the public, consulting the public, involving the public, collaborating or partnering with the public and empowering the public on all matters development by the county governments. Majority of the respondents believe that county

governments have done very little to ensure that the members of the public participate in all or most of the processes of public participation as envisioned in the constitution. Most counties have taken long to allocate money to finance or employ personnel to facilitate public participation and some are still lacking laws and regulations to guide public participation. Public participation in most counties did not start immediately after 2013 because there were no funds allocated in the budget to facilitate public participation and up to now most counties have not passed laws and policies to guide public participation.

Public participation entails a wide range of activities that can range from providing information, through consultation to direct involvement of the public in aspects of the decision-making process. It is an empowering process which enables local people to do their own analysis, take command and gain confidence (Nsibambi, 1998; Chambers, 2002). Participation is the process by which stakeholders exert influence and share control over priority setting, policy making, resource allocation, and/or programme implementation. Participation is the process through which stakeholders' input and share control over development initiatives, decisions and resources which affect them, (Odhiambo and Taifa, 2009). Okello, Oenga and Chege (2008) further define it as a process whereby stakeholders influence policy formulation, alternative designs, investment choices and management decisions affecting their communities.

The county officers interviewed gave the following information and compiled as follows: County assemblies have been undertaking public participation guided by article 196 of the constitution. The process of public participation is such that the assemblies advertise for a public forum and inform the public about the venue. They also upload the information and other documents concerning the pieces of legislation in their websites. Then the officers of the assembly together with the Members of the committee of the assembly (who are MCAs) guide the public through the pieces of legislation/development plans word by word as the public discusses and give their contributions/comments/opinions. The committee takes notes then later on compile and sieve through to make sense out of it. The compiled report is then taken to the committee of the whole house of the county assembly for debate, further deliberations and voting to pass it into law. Communication to the public is normally done through daily newspapers adverts, local radio stations and posters which are claimed to be more effective. Initially money was not allocated to facilitated public participation process in the counties.

The public is given information through the elected MCAs, county assembly website on the upcoming events, through Facebook page, radio, newspapers and posters. The public is normally consulted on the best venues for public participation acceptable to the majority. Involvement of the staff attached to the MCA's office in public participation by collecting views/opinions, ward administrators organize forums to involve the public. County government

may collaborate with institutions, multinational companies, NGOs, civil societies and other stakeholders. Rarely do they collaborate with the public. Training of the public on how to manage and sustain a development project, capacity building is normally organized but on a smaller scale. Civic education has never been done in the three counties.

## **CONCLUSION**

The study concludes that county governments and assemblies tend to involve the public in lower level of public participation process such as provision of information and public consultation, but they have failed to involve the public in higher level of public participation process such as public involvement, public collaboration and public empowerment; which is the highest level/ process of public engagement.

The study also concludes that county governments or assemblies have failed to involve the public fully in development activities. This could be because county governments have not taken public participation seriously or they are not willing to involve the public fully by providing information and facilitating public participation. The study also concludes that most of development activities have been undertaken with little or no input from the public. The county governments have done very little to ensure that the members of the public participate in all or most of the processes of public participation as envisioned in the constitution. Most counties have taken long to allocate money to finance or employ personnel to facilitate public participation and some are still lacking laws and regulations to guide public participation. The study therefore concludes that; there has been no political goodwill from the political leadership of both arms of county government; executive and assembly, towards involving the public fully in development activities.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Basing generalizations on these findings of this study, the researcher recommends that: The county governments should involve the public in all processes of public participation; in both lower level and higher level of public participation process. The public should be given adequate, balanced and objective information; should be consulted adequately; should be involved throughout the process to ensure their concerns and aspirations are understood and considered; county government should collaborate with the public in decision-making; and should be empowered to make final decisions on issues concerning the county government/ assembly. County governments should also involve the public in all development activities such as: budget making; law-making and legislation; vetting of public officers; policy making and

formulation; development planning and proposals writing; implementation of development projects/programs; and monitoring & evaluation of development projects/ programs.

## WAY FORWARD

The study basically evaluated public participation process for sustainable development in devolved system of governance in Kenya. Public participation is a very broad area and therefore further research could be conducted on the following areas:

- (i) Public perceptions and attitudes towards Public participation in the devolved system of governance.
- (ii) Role of politics on effectiveness of public participation in the devolved system of governance.

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