

**STRATEGIC PLANNING IN THE PERFORMANCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
AUTHORITIES  
A CASE STUDY OF KICUKIRO DISTRICT (2011-2012)**

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**ABSTRACT**

Strategic planning has got a positive effect in the performance of local government authorities. The strategic planning is deemed important in order to boost the peoples' standards of living. In order to realize the planned activities there must be effective and efficient performance of the district in order to achieve district development in particular and national development in general of the country.

One of the key tools introduced by the Government of Rwanda in 2006 for reinforcing the local government was the performance-based approach, "*Imihigo*" (working on performance contract). Through this approach local governments articulate their own objectives which reflect national priorities of the local population and develop realistic strategies to achieve these objectives. Therefore, strategic planning done based on the objectives and goals incorporated in the performance contracts signed by the districts.

The study was much interested in examining the importance of strategic planning in the performance of the district. The research also verified how performance contract was implemented in relations to strategic plan.

The objective of the study was to assess the importance of strategic planning in the performance of local government authorities.

The research showed the importance of strategic planning in relation to the performance of the district. It also showed the gaps between strategic planning and performance of the local government authorities.

The methods of research that were applied were both quantitative and qualitative methods. The statistical numbers and words of interviewees were considered important. Some of techniques which were used include; interviews, questionnaires, and observation.

According to the findings the main sectors where much emphasis was put in allocating budget for the performance of the district include; i) Economic development especially in (revenue collection, urban planning and infrastructure, environment protection, and agriculture), ii) Social welfare (Health: provision of medical services, support of vulnerable groups, women protection, youth protection, and promotion of education) and iii) Good governance and justice especially in proper management of public funds, solve peoples' complaints construction of administrative offices and ensuring peace and security to people.