

**AN ASSESSEMENT OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN DEVOLVED
GOVERNMENT: CASE OF NAKURU NORTH SUB-COUNTY.**

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ABSTRACT

Democracy and democratic governments have been hailed as the best form of government so far. However, representative democracy mainly limits itself to elections of representatives to representative assemblies either at the national or local levels. As such Representative democracy mainly ends at the ballot box especially where the role of the people is concerned and the greater work of governance and the institutions thereof is left to the representatives of the people. Many countries including Kenya have turned to decentralization as a means of devolving decision making power closer to the people and to enhance public participation in development planning. Devolution of power and resources is expected to result in efficient and effective delivery of services. It is also intended to address longstanding exclusion and marginalization of minority groups from the center where resource allocation decisions are made by providing for inclusiveness of stakeholders. However, according to the World Bank Report, Kenya (2014) and the report by the Auditor-General of Kenya (2014), and the Controller of Budget (2014), the performance of County governments has been replete with corruption, misuse of public funds and poor service delivery. This raises the pertinent question of public participation as a mitigating variable in the performance of county governments. This research is an assessment of how devolved governance institutions have mainstreamed public participation in decision making processes. Independent variables to be studied are the amount of participatory services delivered, the methods of participation, levels of participation and means of community empowerment for participation. Public participation will be the dependent variable. The study will be conducted in Nakuru North Sub-county which is part of Nakuru County. A sample of 127 participants will be studied. This study will use a descriptive design and questionnaires, interviews and document review will be used as data collection instruments which will be coded and analyzed using SPSS methods. The results will be presented using reports, graphs, diagrams and tables. The research will be conducted between January and February 2015.