

**EVALUATION OF MANAGEMENT OF CONSTITUENCY  
DEVELOPMENT FUND ON THE ECONOMIC WELFARE OF KENYANS:  
A CASE OF GEM CONSTITUENCY, SIAYA COUNTY**

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## ABSTRACT

Parliamentary involvement in grassroots projects and in community development has been growing in a diverse set of countries, including Pakistan, India, Uganda, Bhutan, Jamaica and Papua New Guinea. In the 1990s, Kenya adopted expenditure reforms at the behest of the World Bank. These were accompanied by the introduction of various decentralized funds such as the Road Maintenance Levy Fund in 1994 and the Local Authorities Transfer Fund (LATF) in 1998. In his second year in power, President Kibaki introduced the Constituency Development Fund (CDF). The implementation of CDF has been marred by repeated accusation of abuse of funds, patronage due to excessive powers of the MP, incomplete projects, a lack of technical capacity, poor planning and a litany of other weaknesses which threaten to undermine the very success of the fund. Gem constituency therefore remains one of the relatively poor constituencies in Siaya County. It is on the basis of such malpractices that the study sought to evaluate the management of CDF on the economic welfare of the people of Gem constituency as the overall objective. In order to achieve the objective, the research design used was descriptive survey. The target population was 50,016 people in Gem constituency. The sample size was 397 which represented 0.8% of the total population. The researcher employed census, cluster and purposive sampling technique to select the respondents. Data was collected through questionnaires, structured interviews and document analysis. The questionnaires were physically given to the respondents and collected after a period of two weeks. The data was analyzed and then presented by use of pie charts, tables, bar graphs, line graphs. The study was set to contribute to the existing literature in the CDF management; it was also set to identify weaknesses and strengths that were to enable the stakeholders to re-strategize in their endeavor to scale up service delivery. The study findings showed that there has been reasonable impact caused by CDF management on the economic welfare of Gem constituents. The study however recommends that CDF management needs to involve all the stakeholders in charting a way forward with regard to economic development in the constituency and also to expand the level of fund provisions to the various projects in the constituency.