

Abstract

Kenya is currently undertaking a review of its constitution, which has over the years since independence been amended numerous times to dismantle the decentralised structure that was inherited at independence. The effects of the amendments were such that Kenya ended up with a largely centralised and de-concentrated system. This study traces and analyses Kenya's experiment with several de-concentration programmes, which failed as a result of over-centralisation of political power and resources at the centre. It is against these failed decentralisation attempts that this study provides options that the country can adopt if decentralisation/devolution is to achieve its goal of resource distribution and democratic governance. The study develops an argument against federalism for Kenya and instead advocates for devolution based on viable units, adequate autonomy for the local government units, equitable sharing of resources between central and local government units, and political will to implement the scheme.