

Abstract

Land and land related issues remain a debate in Kenya, in socio-political as well as economic sectors. As cultures and people diversify, so does the rise in land related disputes, thus the creation of two alternative dispute resolution systems focused on in this paper: the Land Dispute Tribunals (LDTs) and Land Adjudication Committees (LACs). Decentralised forms of dispute resolution as is the case with LDTs and LACs, are gaining popularity and acceptability to the people especially in the rural areas. The problem is that the institutions in place so far have not managed to effectively reduce the dispute trend. The purpose of this study therefore, was to find out what prohibits these institutions from achieving the role and purpose for which they were created. The study found out that there was lack of awareness on the functions of the units by the public, while the units were prohibited from performing their duties due to scarcity of resources, bureaucratic hurdles, and interference, and inadequate knowledge of the laws governing land and land dispute resolution. There is need therefore, to make changes to ensure success: 1) a change and review of the governing legislature/Acts to provide more autonomy; 2) creation of similar units in areas with other forms of livelihoods; 3) provide clear guidelines in the implementation and administration of the units; and lastly 4) create and comprehensively work on a public awareness programme.