

Abstract

This study sought to assess the resource capacity and prospects for self-reliant governance and development of districts in view of the proposal that they be the principal units of devolution in Kenya. The study was largely qualitative. It relied mainly on desk review, which was supplemented by limited primary data. The study findings show that while the district was perceived as an ideal and potentially beneficial level of devolution, there was concern that some of the districts as currently established would not be viable as they lack adequate resource base to support a government at that level. The study recommends that devolution be done but in a phased manner, and be piloted; boundaries of currently small districts be redrawn and enlarged to become viable units of government; equity concerns be inbuilt as transfer payments are done; and communities be mobilised and educated on their roles and responsibilities in a devolved government.