

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910973584503321
Titolo	Decentralization and devolution in Kenya : new approaches // edited by Thomas N. Kibua, Germano Mwabu
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Nairobi, : University of Nairobi Press, 2008
ISBN	9966-792-07-4
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (383 p.)
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Soggetti	Decentralization in government - Kenya Local government - Kenya
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	<p>""Cover""; ""Title Page""; ""Copyright Page""; ""Table of Contents""; ""List of Tables, Figures and Appendices""; ""List of Contributors""; ""Preface""; ""Part I. Background""; ""1. Introduction""; ""Part II. Structures and Institutions""; ""2. District Focus for Rural Development as a Decentralized Planning Strategy: An Assessmentof its Implementation in Kenya""; ""3. The Rural Trade and Production Centres Programin Kenya: Experiences and Prospects""; ""4. Devolution of Governance to Districts in Kenya: A Case Study""; ""Part III. Principles and Processes""</p> <p>""5. Devolution and Democratic Governance: Options for Kenya""""6. Devolution: Which Way for Local Authorities?""; ""7. Fiscal Decentralization in Kenya: The Case of Local Authority Transfer Funds""; ""Part IV. Service Delivery and Financing""; ""8. Planning and Budgeting at the Grassroots Level: The Case of Local Authority Service Delivery Action Plans""; ""9. Better Services for All: The Impact of LASDAP in an Informal Settlement of Nairobi""; ""10. Service Delivery Capacity of the District Health Systems in Kenya""</p> <p>""11. Privatization of Water Services in Kenyan Local Authorities: An Analysis of Governance and Policy Issues""""12. Management and Utilization of Constituency Development Funds in Kenya""; ""Index""; ""Back Cover""</p>

Efficient delivery of public services in Africa and other developing regions has for a long time been hindered by highly centralized government bureaucracies (Mwabu et al., 2001). In Kenya, several efforts have been made to reduce unnecessary layers of government to make service provision to the populace more effective. This book reports on recent decentralization and devolution innovations in Kenya. The volume is organized into three parts and contains a total of 12 chapters including the introduction. The chapters in Part 1 (Structures and Institutions) provide a comprehensive analysis of institutional and organizational environment in which decentralization and devolution reforms have been taking place over the last three decades. Part 2 (Principles and Processes) contains chapters that clarify decentralization and devolution concepts, with applications to selected local authorities. The chapters in Part 3 (Service Delivery and Financing) illustrate advantages of provision and financing of services at the local level, with a focus on the role of community participation in improving accountability and efficiency in resource use.

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