

An aerial photograph of a bridge crossing a wide river. The bridge is a long, straight structure with a metal truss support system. On the left bank, there are several buildings, some with corrugated metal roofs, and a cluster of boats. The right bank is more vegetated with green trees and grass. The water is a deep green color.

CHARLES K'ONYANGO

DIRECTOR,
URBAN
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

THE ROLE OF DEVOLUTION IN
THE GROWTH OF KENYA'S
INTERMEDIARY CITIES
AND URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction

2. Historical Policy Perspectives on Rural-Urban Linkages in Kenya

3. The Impact of Devolution

4. Challenges Experienced

5. National and International Strategies on Rural-Urban Development

1. INTRODUCTION

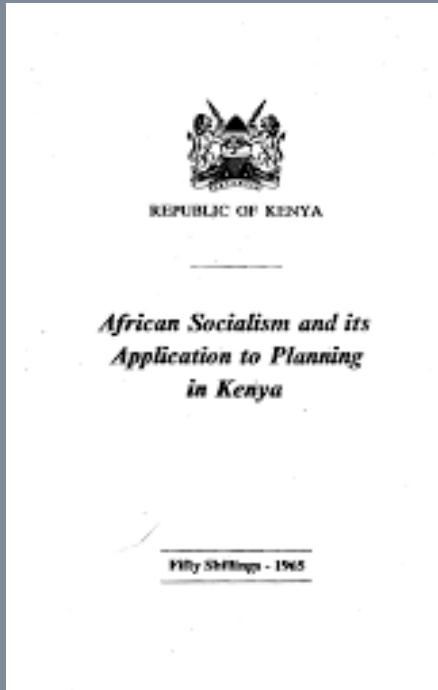


- Kenya's Constitution (2010) ushered in devolution
- The devolvement led to the enabling and responsibility of county governments in overseeing and facilitating key functions towards services delivery to the citizenry



2. HISTORICAL POLICY PERSPECTIVES ON RURAL- URBAN LINKAGES IN KENYA :

- 3A. Sessional Paper no.10 of 1965
- 3B. Rural-Urban Development Strategy of 1971
- 3C. District Focus for Rural Development Strategy of 1994
- 3D. Rural-Trade and Production Centre Strategy of 1996



3A. SESSIONAL PAPER
NO.10 OF 1965 (AFRICAN
SOCIALISM AND ITS
APPLICATIONS)

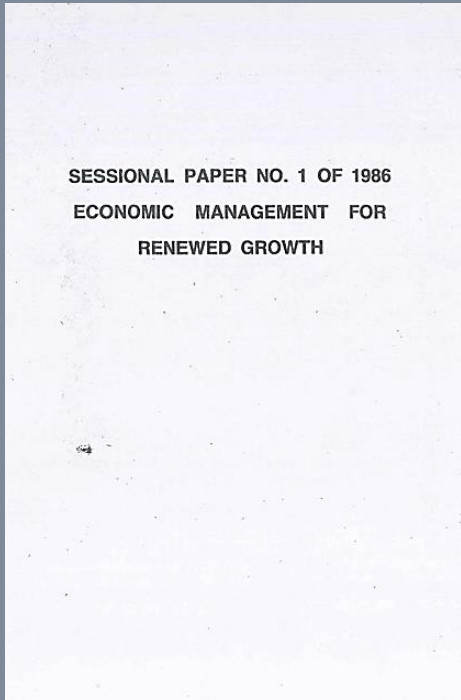
- The paper ensured that the country's wealth would remain in the productive areas, which include the former white highlands and those covered by early registration under the Swynnerton Plan.
- It asserted that to make the economy grow as fast as possible, development funds would be invested where it would yield the largest increase in net output.
- This approach clearly favoured the development of areas endowed with natural resources ,good land and rainfall, transport and power facilities while areas without such facilities continued to lag behind

3B. RURAL-URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF 1971

Kenya's rural development strategy has evolved tremendously over time. It embraced two major components in 1980s, the District Focus Strategy (5th NDP, 1984 -1988), which made the district the operational centre for rural development in 1983, and the Rural-Urban Balance Strategy in 1986 (Sessional Paper# 1, 1986).

In 1990s, the rural development strategy embraced the integrated approach to planning and emphasized effective implementation of both the district focus and rural-urban balance strategies through:

- Increased location of light agro-based industries in the rural areas and small towns so as to provide immediate market for agricultural produce and raw materials to industries
- Increased promotion of industrial investments in rural areas
- Increased spatial pattern of urbanization with close linkages to agricultural resource base as a shift from the urban primary structure pursued in the past
- Increased promotion of informal sector development to generate non-farm opportunities
- Provision of adequate legal and institutional framework so as to enhance community participation and self-governance (7th NDP, 1993 - 1996; 8th NDP, 1997 - 2001; 9th NDP, 2002 - 2008)



3D. RURAL-TRADE AND PRODUCTION CENTRES STRATEGY OF 1996

As an outcome of the Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1986 on Economic Management for Renewed growth of the Kenyan economy up to the year 2000, the strategy aimed at:

- promoting development of an urban system that supports growth of agriculture and development of rural area,
- Generating productive employment opportunities in non-farm activities for rural workers close to where they live.

The strategy introduced Rural Trade and Production Centres (RTPCs). Thus, during this period, the Government of Kenya pursued several regional development policies – including rural urban balance, growth with distribution linkages of physical and sectoral sectors and efficient manpower policies.

3C.DISTRICT FOCUS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF 1994

In 1983, a District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD) strategy, with the District as the basic unit for planning at the local level was developed.

- The 5th NDP (1984-1988), with the theme “Mobilizing Domestic Resources for Equitable Development”, formalized the organizational strategy for planning and implementation of rural development by shifting the planning and implementation responsibility from headquarter ministries to the district. This is the District Focus Strategy (DFS) .
- DFS is based on the principle of complementary relationship between ministries responsible for sectoral approach to development and districts where various sectors are joined in common support of rural development activities.

3. THE IMPACT OF DEVOLUTION ON:

- 1A.** The growth of intermediary cities
- 1B.** Rural development
- 1C.** Rural economies
- 1D.** Rural service provision
- 1E.** Migration from rural to major cities

1A. THE IMPACT OF DEVOLUTION ON THE GROWTH OF INTERMEDIARY CITIES

The 4 intermediary cities of Kenya, (Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru, and Eldoret), have witnessed successful growth since devolution; this has allowed them to aid neighbouring areas of their county. The four cities have witnessed:

- Enhancement of citizens' access to basic services
- Significant successes in fields of agriculture, health, and transport among other devolved functions
- A boost in real estate and increased housing growth in intermediary cities
- Empowerment of county governments and communities due to the significance of the cities and unique services not offered by the capital city (e.g. Mombasa port)



“Title deed distribution in Kisumu Centre and its surrounding areas, Dec 2021”



1B. THE IMPACT OF DEVOLUTION ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

QUICK FACTS

Despite increased development; Rural poverty in Kenya still remains high due to population growth and dependence on rapidly depleting natural resources

- **Enhancement of citizen oversight over rural leaders.** Currently most leaders (governors, senators, and members of county assemblies) face intense public scrutiny and are under constant pressure to deliver good and accountable governance.
- **Addressing of recurring social problems** which were previously neglected by the overwhelmed central government in Nairobi prior to 2010/13

1C. THE IMPACT OF DEVOLUTION ON RURAL ECONOMIES

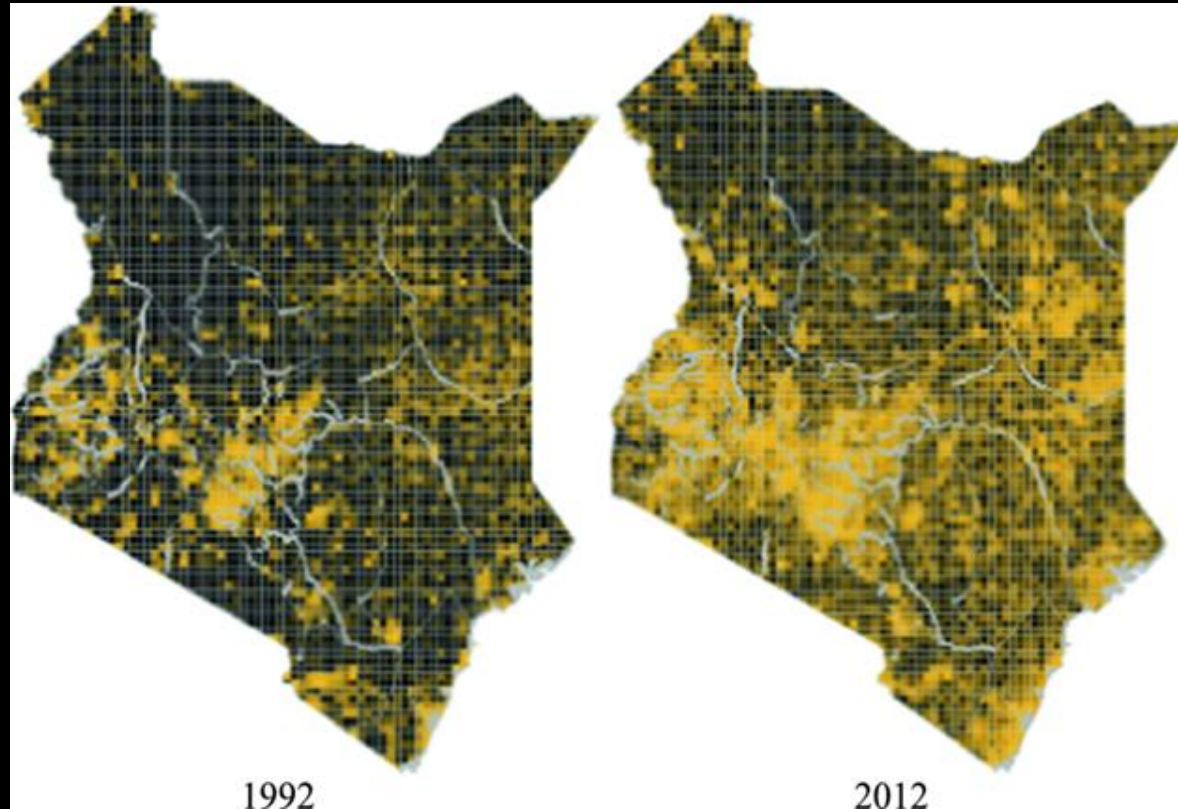


QUICK FACTS

The agriculture sector continues to be the most important in Kenya's economy, employing 80% of the rural population and accounting for nearly 65% of export earnings

- **Addressing of recurring economic problems** which were previously neglected by the overwhelmed central government in Nairobi prior to 2010/13
- **Increase in economic development and performance** in the rural areas, as exhibited by satellite image data on nighttime luminosity that helps represent economic performance of the rural areas in Kenya
- **Increased markets provisions** for, smallholder farmers, agro-pastoralists and rural entrepreneurs.

1C. THE IMPACT OF DEVOLUTION ON RURAL ECONOMIES



Satellite image data on nighttime luminosity that helps represent economic performance of the rural areas in Kenya



QUICK FACTS

The majority, over **75%** of Kenya's estimated 43 million people inhabit rural areas: the majority of these being under 35

1D. THE IMPACT OF DEVOLUTION ON RURAL SERVICE PROVISION

- Enhancement of **rural citizens access to basic services**
- Increased **rural electrification and lighting**. Rural areas have also reported a 29.9% uptake of solar lighting – higher than the rural national grid connection that stood at 26% during the August 2019 census
- **Improved access to assets, technologies and services** for vulnerable rural women, men and young people



1E. THE IMPACT OF DEVOLUTION ON MIGRATION FROM RURAL TO MAJOR CITIES

- Several significant transportation improvements primarily to road and rail facilities have improved access between rural areas and major cities. Examples include Mbita bridge, Likoni Floating Bridge, upgraded Airstrips and several bypasses and interchanges. The Standard Gauge Railway is also a key example that trapeses through the country, promoting rural tourism, it is set to continue internationally
- Additionally, the COVID19 pandemic has prompted wealthy Kenyans to buy holiday homes in rural areas, particularly in the coast – devolutions role in improved access and real estate has greatly enabled this

4. THE ROLE OF
INTERMEDIARY
CITIES IN
ENHANCING
BALANCED
DEVELOPMENT





The Rural – Urban Continuum



QUICK FACTS

Urban and rural communities cannot thrive in isolation from each other.

The relationship/linkage between urban and rural areas is significant in ensuring balanced development and resource efficiency between the two.

The repeated circular movement of goods and people across the urban-rural continuum creates a system of integrated functional regions.

To achieve enhanced prosperity of regions, improvement of the spatial connectivity between urban and rural areas is a fundamental government function.

Development in the intermediary cities gradually trickles down to induce development in the surrounding rural hinterlands. For instance, taking the example of Eldoret as an intermediary city, development has trickled down to smaller urban centres such as Moiben, Kapsabet, Moi's Bridge and Turbo.



QUICK FACTS

Before commercial flights to Masai Mara only came from Nairobi. Today, Mombasa and Kisumu also fly commercially to Masai Mara.

Intermediary cities have given rural-tourism greater exposure; more signage and information, road/rail/air access, appreciation of natural environments. This has made the best utilisation of resources in both urban and rural areas for their balanced development. For example:

- Maasai Mara – the airstrips in the Mara are supported by flights not only from the capital city, but recently also from Mombasa by airline Safarilink, and Kisumu by airline AirKenya
- Luanda – benefits from Kisumu and it's development such as the Kisumu-Busia highway)

In consideration of the aforementioned statement, **intermediary cities play a vital role in absorbing pressures from the capital city Nairobi, and distributing and enabling rural areas to perform these roles**

5. CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED



Despite advances, devolvement has introduced challenges which must be highlighted for further consideration in implementing beneficial and responsive strategies. Existing challenges include:

- Corruption challenges continue to lessen the efficiency of the devolved units and the realisation of devolution's full potential. Nonetheless the devolvement has opened ways for greater accountability of actions.
- New levels of marginalisation in some counties; dominant ethnic groups are benefitting disproportionately from the county government at expense of minority groups.
- Leadership imbalances and unending power struggles which have hampered service delivery and crucial processes such as vetting of key appointees and budget-making
- Spatial inequality; existence of unequal distribution of social services, infrastructure developments, economic factors and livelihoods, and financial resources between urban and rural areas.
- Climate Change; Adverse Climate Change Effects has add to the pain of the vulnerable rural communities leading to climate refugees, who in turn seek solace in intermediary cities and other urban areas with the hope of meeting the much needed basic needs. The situation calls for enhancement of adaptive capacity of the vulnerable urban areas and urban poor populace in intermediary cities.

6. NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL
POLICY
PERSPECTIVES ON
RURAL-URBAN
DEVELOPMENT



KENYA VISION 2030

The sector plan for Population, Urbanization and Housing as entailed in the second medium term plan (2013-2017) of Kenya's Vision 2030 , outlines policies and reforms that ensures adequate and decent housing in well planned areas while ensuring that smaller towns and rural areas have access to adequate and decent housing and other related basic infrastructure. Priority areas for Rural-Urban linkages taken into consideration include;

- Increase in Housing Stock
- Market Development Policy
- Enhancing access to housing Finances and Mortgages
- Informal Settlements and Infrastructure development
- Promotion and Utilization of low-cost building materials and appropriate technology

BIG FOUR AGENDA

Ensuring food security is among the government's four main development agenda. Urban areas rely heavily on their surrounding rural hinterlands and established linkages for food and other agricultural products.

Seeing as the predominant economic activity within majority of the country's rural areas is agriculture, the government has set measures to ensure continued production and enhance the livelihoods of local farmers.

Such measures include offering seeds and fertilizer to farmers on credit, training on improved farming techniques, and post-harvest support to help farmers minimize losses.



NEW URBAN AGENDA

The New Urban Agenda localises the Sustainable Development Goals

The agenda calls for inclusive approaches and enhanced synergies between urban and rural communities and spaces.

The 'inclusion' concept of "leave no one behind" is an essential tool for ensuring balanced development in both urban and rural areas.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG

Application in Urban-Rural linkages

- SDG7 Urban centres have improved rural access to electricity with increases in use of renewable energy (in electricity sector) and improved energy efficiency – there is still avenue to increase this in rural areas
- SDG9 Stresses the need for improved rural road connectivity because this provides farmers and their families with easy access to markets, along with health and education facilities.



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

THE END

THANK
YOU