



**PUBLIC PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING AND PERFORMANCE OF DEVOLVED UNITS IN MT KENYA REGION IN KENYA**

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**ABSTRACT**

The general objective of the study is to examine the influence of public participatory budgeting and Performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya. Specifically, the study sought to determine the influence of citizen's perceptions on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya and to establish the influence of county legislation on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya. The study adopted a cross-sectional research design. The study targeted a total of 448 respondents comprising of Business community associations (16); Church Clergies (100), Youth association leaders (100); Community leaders based organization (100); Sub-County Administrators (5); Ward Administrators (25); County Executive Committee Members (CECs) (9); MCAs (25). The Yamane formula was adopted to calculate the study sample size. The study used simple random sampling in selecting 211 respondents from study population. In this study questionnaires were used to collect primary data. After collecting the questionnaires from the respondents, they were first scrutinized to ensure completeness and consistency. Only dully filled questionnaires were used in the final analysis. The data was then coded and entered into the computer using SPSS Version 24.0. Quantitative data was analyzed and summarized using means, mode, frequencies and percentages. Inferential statistics included correlation and regression analysis. Data was then presented in form of tables and figures. The study found that citizen's perceptions has a significant effect on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya ( $\beta_1=0.387$ ,  $p$  value= 0.003). In addition, the results revealed that County Legislation has significant effect on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya ( $\beta_1=0.392$ ,  $p$  value= 0.001). The study concludes that citizen's perceptions has a positive and significant effect on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya. The study also concludes that county legislation has a positive and significant effect on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya. In addition, the study recommends that county governments in Mt Kenya region should implement comprehensive and transparent information dissemination strategies to ensure that relevant data and updates regarding government activities, policies, and resources are readily accessible to all stakeholders.

**Key Words:** Public Participatory Budgeting, Citizen's Perceptions, County Legislation, Performance, devolved units, Mt Kenya region

## **Background of the Study**

The World Bank (2019) and the Institute of Economic Affairs (2019) looked at public participation as the process by which an organization consults with interested or affected individuals, organizations, and government entities before making a decision. They further view public participation as a two-way communication and collaborative problem solving with the goal of achieving better and more acceptable decisions (WB,2019). It is widely believed that public participation contributes to better projects, better development and collaborative governance. Research has shown that public participation is, indeed, advantageous for the speed and quality of implementation of planning decisions (Mitchels & Graaf, 2018). Governance experts argue that well planned and structured public participation should be initiated very early in the life-cycle of a planned intervention, and sustained during its entire life. All actors should know the aims, rules, organization, procedure and expected outcomes of the public participation process undertaken. In routine institutional management practices (Omollo, 2019) the public participation process should follow some rules of ethics, professional behavior or moral obligations; focus on negotiable issues relevant to the decision making as well as the values and interests of participants.

Public participation (Finch, 2020) is thought to generate ownership and agency, which contribute to social sustainability, community building, and creation of a harmonious society, thus contributing to overall improved performance of institutions or state. Public participation is a process by which public concerns, needs and values are incorporated in decision making and includes the processes and methods designed to involve, consult, inform and empower the public or stakeholders in order to allow those who would potentially be affected by a decision, legislation, policy, program, project to contribute into the process. Through public participation, those interested or potentially influenced by a decision get a chance to participate in the decision-making process (Awio & Northcott, 2017).

## **Statement of the Problem**

The budget making process is increasingly recognized as the main key towards an economic management. It is nevertheless also recognized that a country can have a sound budget and financial system and still fail to achieve its intended targets. This suggests that the rules by which the budget formulation and be implemented are important and that they influence financial outcomes, (Sabahi, 2013). Despite its importance, the link between public participation and budget implementation is missing in Kenya since counties have inconsistencies in budget implementation (Jason, 2013).

Sabahi (2013) explains that Kenyan Budget Controller on 13th August 2013 had given county governments two weeks to revise their budgets after a report from the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) revealed that 25 of Kenya's 47 counties faced significant budget deficits. According to the reports of the Controller of budgets and Auditor General FY2013/2014 and FY2014/2015, majority of the Mt Kenya County governments have been experiencing huge unexplained budget deficits' posing a risk to the financial performance of the Counties.

Another Auditor General Report, quizzed expenditures on stalled projects on the counties in coast region whereby up to 73 percent of the projects initiated had stalled whereas payments worth Kshs.10 billion had already been paid (Auditor General Report, 2018). Inconsistencies were also indicated in the payments and receipts statements whereas while the county reports indicated a value of Kshs.5.8 billion, IFMIS report showed Kshs.3.8billion and the variance of Kshs.2billion was not accounted for. The report also cited other inconsistencies in the public financial management malpractices in the stated counties which would otherwise not have happened had the due process of participatory budgeting been followed.

However, whether corrective measures in budget process efficiency where effected remain an enigma. The report further noted that annual amount of funds not utilized by Counties in the region were returned to treasurer hence worsening the situation cause of concern to all stakeholders in the public management field. Wanyoike (2019); Muriu, (2019) they both postulated that despite its support in the legislative framework in Kenya, the process faces challenges characterized by low participation rates. Similarly, Wandaka, Mungai and Odindo (2020) supported the claim that participatory budgeting making process has been a struggle and the whole process is seen as just symbolic. Mugambi and Theuri (2018) also investigated the challenges which the county governments faces in ensuring public participation and showed that the rate of public participation was low attributed to information in availability and low awareness. Although several studies have been done on public participatory budgeting and organization performance, none of these studies focused on Performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya. This study therefore sought to fill the research gap by examining the influence of public participatory budgeting and Performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya

### **Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives of the study were as follows;

- i. To determine the influence of citizen's perceptions on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya.
- ii. To determine the influence of County Legislation on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Theoretical Review**

#### **Service Quality Theory**

Oliver's (1980) service quality theory predicts that clients will judge that quality is low if performance does not comply with their expectations. Hence, quality increases as performance surpasses expectations. Thus, citizens' expectations operate as the base on which they evaluate county performance. Moreover, Lewis and Booms (1983) state that service quality is a measure of how well the service level delivered matches customer expectations. County services delivering quality service means conforming to county citizens' expectations on a consistent basis. Quality has come to be recognized as a strategic tool for attaining operational efficiency and better performance of business. It means the ability of a service provider to satisfy customer in an efficient manner through which he can better the performance (Kalidas, 2017). This Theory in today's constitution promulgation 2010 aspects depends on five administration quality measurements, in particular effects which are tangible (physical facilities, equipment and work compel appearance), reliability (ability to play out the ensured advantage continually and definitely), responsiveness (status to empower clients or customers and provide for actuate advantage), assurance (learning and good manners of delegates and their ability to get trust and assurance) and empathy (giving individualized thought in regards to the customers), Ladhari et al ., (2018). In relations to the variable stated above is that the theory gives out an insight into the how customers 'perceptions in relations to the county performance service quality delivery to its own citizens. This theory was used to assess the influence of citizen's perceptions on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya.

#### **The Pluralist and Elitist Theory**

The pluralist theory which mainly focuses on power postulates that power can be in the form of many ideals such as political, religious, skilled or even persuasive power. This power is to be

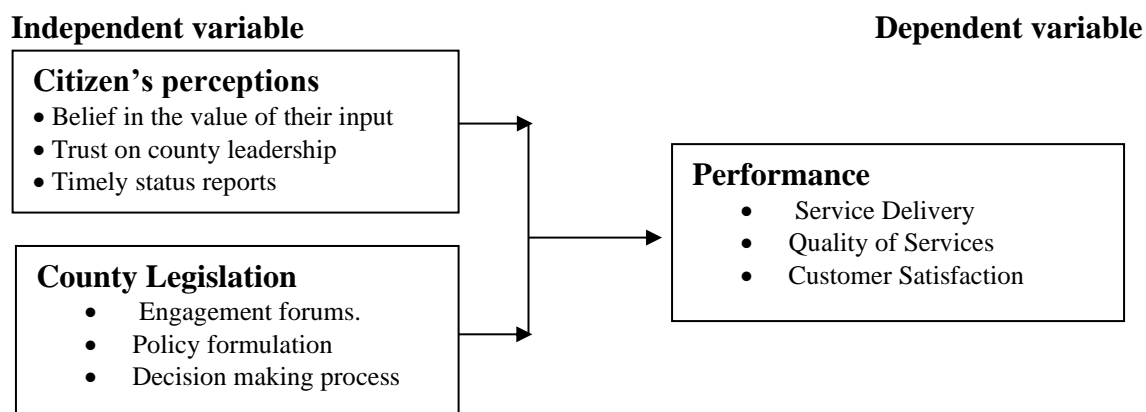
distributed to all members of the social contract and nobody is meant to have more or less say in the institution than the others (Alden, C 2011).

The pluralist theory goes further to suggest that no one controls the social contract as everyone has such an equal stake in it. The theory argues that the abilities of the people shall always outweigh the executive rulers’ or the rights of the central power the elitist theory on the other hand stresses on material power (Amsden, 2019). The theory argues that those who have resources must be successful and rightful rulers, or else that resource would not have gotten into their possession. Superiority in the elites is the premise for the elitist theory. Whoever has achieved must be of a higher mental capacity, and is the only one who is worthy of a position of power. To elitists, the citizenry or “Wananchi” are common due to a lack of superiority. Elitism recognizes the need for people to be governed, and decides that elitists should rule because of all the material power around, they have the most, and therefore, have the most to be lost in the event of an unsuccessful social contract. By making those with the most possession the ones in power, it is theorized that there will be order due to the elites keeping it together in order to sustain their foothold in society.

The centrality of the pluralist theory is located in the hands of the public or citizens who determine their governance and development discourse. To the contrary, the elitist theory is focused on individuals that have material wealth who have a lot to lose if they are not in a position of power. The elitist theory contradicts the ideals of the Kenyan Constitution and thus should be strongly guarded against while championing of the pluralist theory should be upheld; it is directly relevant to public participation on budget participatory process in devolved Government as envisaged in the 2010 Kenyan Constitution. The Pluralist and Elitist Theory was used to assess the influence of County Legislation on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya

**Conceptual Framework**

The conceptual framework summarizes behaviors and provides explanations and predictions for the majority number of empirical observations (Cooper& Schindler, 2019). Conceptual frameworks are used in research to outline possible courses of action or to present a preferred approach to an idea or thought. Figure 2.1 presents the conceptual framework of the study undertaken.



**Figure 2. 1: Conceptual Framework**

**Citizens Perceptions**

Based on the 2010 Kenyan constitution, there are six key benefits of engaging in public participation processes; namely, it strengthens democracy and governance; by engaging in public participation in policy, law and development of policy processes, the public exercise their

constitutional rights, and as a result, the decision-making process becomes more representative. Openness to the public provides a platform in which the public presents their concerns and engages with government.

Insufficient public engagements create a different understanding towards a citizen hence this limits the power of the people to participate in democratic governance; public participation increases accountability; improves transparency and accountability of the social, political, cultural, economic, and environmental impacts of policies, laws and development plans and of how the costs and benefits impact on different segments of society Mugambi and Theuri (2014). In order to hinder the perceptions within its citizens, public participation helps to ensure that governments are accountable for their actions and responsive to public interests. By linking the public with decision-makers, public confidence and support of decision-making processes is enhanced (IEA, 2018).

Citizens of a country or nation their perceptions may vary in perception towards their government services delivery. These in this may include improvements infrastructures, quality health care, good security, better housing for its citizens, a good inhabitable environmental (Muriu, 2015). Citizen lives in communities that best meet their inclinations, regardless of whether they do not or think that its unsafe or hard to move to somewhere else (Njagi, 2016). Along these lines, negative occasions may make citizens either leave the region for additionally engaging areas or remain in a similar place yet stay unsatisfied.

In the event that there are no such negative occasions, citizens are reliable and submitted and glad for where they live with positive perceptions (Therkelsen et al, 2004), as it reinforces and communicates favorable associations with such place as citizens are a core group in the process of county branding. The level of desires that cover the significance and fulfillment of citizens with the service quality and their state of mind toward their county governance is in its democracy. This is the place general public figures out where it needs to go and the role of its delegates and the bureaucratic staff is to get them there. The county government ought to win citizen trust and confidence. This can only be promoted when there are good leadership and management and more importantly services that meet citizens 'and community needs. Eccles (2015) found out that citizens have less trust in governments that cannot generate economic growth, create jobs, and competently deliver social services. One could trust the government to do the right thing although there are few dishonest people in government, most officials know what they are doing framework and the government runs for the benefit of all.

### **County Legislation**

One of the landmark provisions of the Constitution as set out in article 6:1—3 is the devolved system of governance which created system of governance that was two tire (national and county) where both are assigned clear mandates as detailed in the fourth programme of the constitution. Forty-seven county governments were then made. The two levels of government are unmistakable yet related and chip away at a shared ground on the premise of conference and participation. The county incomes and the conveyance of open administration in the decayed units are under the Executive and the Legislative arms of governments.

(Chitere, 2004), says that the birth of public participation made moving decision making and resources away from the centre to the periphery. It is the sharing of responsibilities both for decision making as well as for decentralization and use of resources between the central and sub-national governments. (Oloo, 2006) notes that public participation and budget making in Kenya, is seen as a way to institutionalize citizen participation in development planning, opportunities for political participation and to enhance communities 'sense of ownership.

The overall responsibility of the county assembly is to represent the citizens, legislation and play the oversight role in the county executive. Further, the Assembly has the mandate to enhance the Institutional Capacity including enhancing the image of the institution, attracting and retaining a competent human resource. Every other election term, county assembly formulates the strategic plan to guide their function and to foster constitutional as well as statutory agenda in an organized, reasonable, effective and financially sensitive way.

### **Empirical Review**

Mohammadi, Norazizan and Nikkiah (2018) through a qualitative focus, established the perceptions of the Iran people on participation in government activities. The methodology adopted by the study was a qualitative approach that mainly made use of interviews to obtain qualitative data which was thematically analyzed. From the content analysis, it was revealed that their perception was centered on their need for participation.

Aboelnaga (2017) conducted a study focusing on public participation in planning in the Egyptian context. Through a qualitative interrogation, the study established that the citizen's opinion has a great effect on the implementation of projects leading to the development of the country. However, the most important problem was in the stage in which the decision maker takes into account the opinion of the public and thus most people felt that their opinion was not valued thus had a poor attitude towards public participation in such meetings.

In Kenya, Moi (2019) interrogated whether citizen's perception played a role in governance of projects in Two counties, Elgeyo Marakwet and Nandi. Through multinomial regression, it was demonstrated that citizen's expectations guided their participation in governance of the projects. On the other hand, Imbo and Kiruthu (2019) investigated whether publication participation affected legislations at the National Assembly. It was realized that its influence is not impactful.

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The study adopted a cross-sectional research design. According to Orodho (2018) cross-sectional research design analyses the cause-effect relationship between two or more variables. Hence the design was appropriate to the study because the research sought to establish a cause-effect relationship. The study adopted cross-sectional since it uses theories and hypothesis to account for the forces that causes a certain phenomenon to occur (Cooper & Schindler, 2019). This study was conducted in Mt Kenya Region. Mount Kenya is located in the former Eastern and Central provinces of Kenya and comprises of a total of 10 counties. It is about 90 kilometres north of the equator, around 150 km north-northeast of the capital Nairobi. Mount Kenya is the source of the name of the Republic of Kenya. This study focused on Business community associations (16); Church Clergies (100), Youth association leaders (100); Community leaders based organization (100); Sub-County Administrators (5); Ward Administrators (25); County Executive Committee Members (CECs) (9); MCAs (25) in total according to the County Integrated Development Program, 2018-2022.

The Yamane formula was adopted to calculate the study sample size. Therefore, the study sample size was 211 respondents. The study used simple random sampling in selecting the sample from study population. The advantage of random sampling is that it ensures that the sampling error is minimal which increases precision of techniques of estimation in use (Cooper & Schindler, 2017). Data was collected by use of semi-structured questionnaires. The questionnaires comprised of both open and closed ended questions. Data was collected by use of the drop and pick-up later method and the questionnaires were collected after one week by the research assistants.

According to Cauvery, Nayak, Girija and Meenakshi (2017), pilot study should be between 1% and 10% of the actual sample size. Therefore, in this study, the pilot group was 22 individuals which represented 6% of the total study sample size. The pilot group was excluded from the final study. Quantitative data collected was analysed by the use of descriptive statistics which include percentages, means, standard deviations and frequencies. Content analysis was used to test data that was collected from the open-ended questions and findings were presented in tables and figures. This study also conducted inferential statistics through correlation analysis and regression analysis.

### **PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA**

The researcher sampled 211 respondents who were each administered with the questionnaires. From the 211 questionnaires 198 were completely filled and returned hence a response rate of 93.8%. The response rate was considered as suitable for making inferences from the data collected. Smith (2019) indicates that a response rate that is above fifty per-cent is considered adequate for data analysis and reporting while a response rate that is above 70% is classified as excellent. Hence, the response rate of this study was within the acceptable limits for drawing conclusions and making recommendations.

#### **Descriptive Statistics Analysis**

Descriptive statistics are brief descriptive coefficients that summarize a given data set, which can be either a representation of the entire or a sample of a population. Descriptive statistics are broken down into measures of central tendency (mean), measures of dispersion (standard deviation), frequencies and percentage (Baggio & Klobas, 2017). This study used descriptive statistics with the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences to analyze the study variables.

#### **Citizen's Perceptions and Performance of Devolved Units**

The first specific objective of the study was to determine the influence of citizen's perceptions on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya. The respondents were requested to indicate their level of agreement on statements relating to citizen's perceptions and performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya. A 5 point Likert scale was used where 1 symbolized strongly disagree, 2 symbolized disagree, 3 symbolized neutral, 4 symbolized agree and 5 symbolized strongly agree. The results were as presented in Table 1.

From the results, the respondents agreed that the devolved unit effectively communicates its functions and responsibilities to the local community. This is supported by a mean of 3.943 (std. dv = 0.981). In addition, as shown by a mean of 3.926 (std. dv = 0.850), the respondents agreed that transparency in the decision-making processes of the devolved unit is a key factor in building trust among citizens. Further, the respondents agreed that the devolved unit adequately addresses the needs and concerns of the local community. This is shown by a mean of 3.911 (std. dv = 0.914).

The respondents also agreed that the provision of essential public services, such as education and healthcare, by the devolved unit meets the expectations of the citizens. This is shown by a mean of 3.896 (std. dv = 0.947). With a mean of 3.889 (std. dv = 0.856), the respondents agreed that economic development in the region is positively influenced by the efforts of the devolved unit. The respondents agreed that there is noticeable improvement in local governance and service delivery since the establishment of devolved units. This is supported by a mean of 3.876 (std. dv = 0.694). In addition, as shown by a mean of 3.764 (std. dv = 0.892), the respondents agreed that public participation in community meetings or forums organized by the devolved unit is essential for fostering community engagement

**Table 1: Citizen's Perceptions and Performance of Devolved Units**

	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
The devolved unit effectively communicates its functions and responsibilities to the local community.	3.943	0.981
Transparency in the decision-making processes of the devolved unit is a key factor in building trust among citizens.	3.926	0.850
The devolved unit adequately addresses the needs and concerns of the local community.	3.911	0.914
The provision of essential public services, such as education and healthcare, by the devolved unit meets the expectations of the citizens.	3.896	0.947
Economic development in the region is positively influenced by the efforts of the devolved unit.	3.889	0.856
There is noticeable improvement in local governance and service delivery since the establishment of devolved units.	3.876	0.694
Public participation in community meetings or forums organized by the devolved unit is essential for fostering community engagement.	3.764	0.892
<b>Aggregate</b>	<b>3.898</b>	<b>0.873</b>

### County Legislation and Performance of Devolved Units

The second specific objective of the study was to determine the influence of County Legislation on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya. The respondents were requested to indicate their level of agreement on various statements relating to County Legislation and performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya. A 5 point Likert scale was used where 1 symbolized strongly disagree, 2 symbolized disagree, 3 symbolized neutral, 4 symbolized agree and 5 symbolized strongly agree. The results were as presented in Table 2.

From the results, the respondents agreed that the clarity and accessibility of county legislation contribute to citizens' understanding of local governance. This is supported by a mean of 3.968 (std. dv = 0.905). In addition, as shown by a mean of 3.899 (std. dv = 0.885), the respondents agreed that a well-structured legislative framework at the county level is essential for effective and transparent governance. Further, the respondents agreed that citizens are adequately informed about the key laws and regulations governing their devolved unit. This is shown by a mean of 3.880 (std. dv = 0.605). With a mean of 3.875 (std. dv = 0.981), the respondents agreed that the devolved unit's adherence to county legislation is crucial for maintaining accountability and ethical governance.

From the results, the respondents agreed that transparent processes in the creation and amendment of county legislation foster trust between citizens and the devolved unit. This is supported by a mean of 3.856 (std. dv = 0.984). In addition, as shown by a mean of 3.802 (std. dv = 0.823), the respondents agreed that the effectiveness of county legislation directly impacts the unit's ability to address the diverse needs of the local community. With a mean of 3.794 (std. dv = 0.653), the respondents agreed that citizens' awareness of county legislation influences their perception of the devolved unit's commitment to the rule of law.



**Table 2: County Legislation and Performance of Devolved Units**

	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
The clarity and accessibility of county legislation contribute to citizens' understanding of local governance.	3.968	0.905
A well-structured legislative framework at the county level is essential for effective and transparent governance.	3.899	0.885
Citizens are adequately informed about the key laws and regulations governing their devolved unit.	3.880	0.605
The devolved unit's adherence to county legislation is crucial for maintaining accountability and ethical governance.	3.875	0.981
Transparent processes in the creation and amendment of county legislation foster trust between citizens and the devolved unit.	3.856	0.984
The effectiveness of county legislation directly impacts the unit's ability to address the diverse needs of the local community.	3.802	0.823
Citizens' awareness of county legislation influences their perception of the devolved unit's commitment to the rule of law.	3.794	0.653
<b>Aggregate</b>	<b>3.819</b>	<b>0.867</b>

### Performance of Devolved Units

The respondents were requested to indicate their level of agreement on various statements relating to performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya. A 5 point Likert scale was used where 1 symbolized strongly disagree, 2 symbolized disagree, 3 symbolized neutral, 4 symbolized agree and 5 symbolized strongly agree. The results were as presented in Table 3.

From the results, the respondents agreed that the devolved units have effectively addressed key issues such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. This is supported by a mean of 3.984 (std. dv = 0.997). In addition, as shown by a mean of 3.957 (std. dv = 0.831), the respondents agreed that citizen satisfaction with the performance of devolved units is a reflection of successful governance. Further, the respondents agreed that the implementation of development projects by the devolved units has positively impacted the quality of life for residents. This is shown by a mean of 3.948 (std. dv = 0.563). The respondents also agreed that the devolved units have demonstrated transparency in their financial management, ensuring accountable use of public funds. This is shown by a mean of 3.891 (std. dv = 0.851).

The respondents agreed that collaboration between the devolved units has contributed to regional development and shared resources. This is supported by a mean of 3.873 (std. dv = 0.896). In addition, as shown by a mean of 3.854 (std. dv = 0.789), the respondents agreed that citizens are actively engaged in decision-making processes, indicating a strong connection between the devolved units and the local community. Further, the respondents agreed that the devolved units have successfully promoted economic growth and entrepreneurship in the Mt Kenya Region. This is shown by a mean of 3.832 (std. dv = 0.876).

**Table 3: Performance of Devolved Units**

	Mean	Std. Deviation
The devolved units have effectively addressed key issues such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure.	3.984	0.997
Citizen satisfaction with the performance of devolved units is a reflection of successful governance.	3.957	0.831
The implementation of development projects by the devolved units has positively impacted the quality of life for residents.	3.948	0.563
The devolved units have demonstrated transparency in their financial management, ensuring accountable use of public funds.	3.891	0.851
Collaboration between the devolved units has contributed to regional development and shared resources.	3.873	0.896
Citizens are actively engaged in decision-making processes, indicating a strong connection between the devolved units and the local community.	3.854	0.789
The devolved units have successfully promoted economic growth and entrepreneurship in the Mt Kenya Region	3.832	0.876
<b>Aggregate</b>	<b>3.829</b>	<b>0.818</b>

**Correlation Analysis**

The present study used Pearson correlation analysis to determine the strength of association between independent variables (citizen’s perceptions and County Legislation) and the dependent variable (performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya) dependent variable. Pearson correlation coefficient range between zero and one, where by the strength of association increase with increase in the value of the correlation coefficients. The current study employed Taylor (2018) correlation coefficient ratings where by 0.80 to 1.00 depicts a very strong relationship, 0.60 to 0.79 depicts strong, 0.40 to 0.59 depicts moderate, 0.20 to 0.39 depicts weak.

**Table 4: Correlation Coefficients**

		Organization Performance	Citizen’s Perceptions	County Legislation
Organization Performance	Pearson Correlation	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)			
	N	198		
Citizen’s Perceptions	Pearson Correlation	.836**	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002		
	N	198	198	
County Legislation	Pearson Correlation	.856**	.185	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.078	
	N	198	198	198

From the results, there was a very strong relationship between citizen’s perceptions and performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya ( $r = 0.836$ ,  $p$  value =0.002). The relationship was significant since the  $p$  value 0.002 was less than 0.05 (significant level). The findings are in line with the findings of Brown and Hyer (2016) who indicated that there is a very strong relationship between citizen’s perceptions and organization performance.

The results also revealed that there was a very strong relationship between county legislation and performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya ( $r = 0.856$ ,  $p$  value =0.000). The relationship was significant since the  $p$  value 0.000 was less than 0.05 (significant level). The

findings are in line with the results of Zimmermann, *et al* (2015) who revealed that there is a very strong relationship between county legislation and organization performance

**Regression Analysis**

Multivariate regression analysis was used to assess the relationship between independent variables (citizen’s perceptions and County Legislation) and the dependent variable (performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya)

**Table 6: Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.940	.884	.885	.582

a. Predictors: (Constant), citizen’s perceptions, and County Legislation

The model summary was used to explain the variation in the dependent variable that could be explained by the independent variables. The r-squared for the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable was 0.884. This implied that 88.4% of the variation in the dependent variable (performance of devolved units) could be explained by independent variables (citizen’s perceptions and County Legislation).

**Table 7: Analysis of Variance**

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	12.027	4	3.018	88.76	.000 <sup>b</sup>
1 Residual	6.568	193	.034		
Total	18.595	197			

a. Dependent Variable: Performance of devolved units

b. Predictors: (Constant), citizen’s perceptions and County Legislation

The ANOVA was used to determine whether the model was a good fit for the data. F calculated was 88.76 while the F critical was 2.418. The p value was 0.000. Since the F-calculated was greater than the F-critical and the p value 0.000 was less than 0.05, the model was considered as a good fit for the data. Therefore, the model can be used to predict the influence of citizen’s perceptions and County Legislation on performance of devolved units.

**Table 8: Regression Coefficients**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	0.311	0.082		3.793	0.003
	citizen’s perceptions	0.387	0.091	0.388	3.593	0.003
	County Legislation	0.392	0.102	0.393	3.843	0.001

a Dependent Variable: performance of devolved units

The regression model was as follows:

$$Y = 0.311 + 0.387X_1 + 0.392X_2 + \epsilon$$

According to the results, citizen’s perceptions has a significant effect on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya ( $\beta_1=0.387$ , p value= 0.003). The relationship was considered significant since the p value 0.003 was less than the significant level of 0.05. The findings are in line with the findings of Brown and Hyer (2016) who indicated that there is a very strong relationship between citizen’s perceptions and organization performance.

In addition, the results revealed that County Legislation has significant effect on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya ( $\beta_1=0.392$ ,  $p$  value= 0.001). The relationship was considered significant since the  $p$  value 0.001 was less than the significant level of 0.05. The findings are in line with the results of Zimmermann, et al (2015) who revealed that there is a very strong relationship between county legislation and organization performance.

### **Conclusions**

The study concludes that citizen's perceptions has a positive and significant effect on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya. Findings revealed that Belief in the value of their input, trust on county leadership and timely status reports influences performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya

The study also concludes that county legislation has a positive and significant effect on performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya. Findings revealed that engagement forums, policy formulation and decision making process influences performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya.

### **Recommendations**

This study recommends that County governments in Mt Kenya region should establish and institutionalize regular mechanisms for soliciting and incorporating citizen feedback and input into the decision-making processes of devolved units. This can be achieved through robust public consultation forums, citizen satisfaction surveys, and other participatory mechanisms to ensure that government actions and policies align with the needs and preferences of the local population

The county governments should also strengthen the capacity for legislative oversight and policy formulation within devolved units by investing in professional development for county legislators and staff. This can involve providing training on legislative drafting, policy analysis, and budgetary processes to enhance their ability to develop and enact effective laws and regulations that address the needs and priorities of the local population.

### **Suggestions for Further Studies**

The study found that the independent variables (citizen's perceptions, County Legislation) could only explain 88.4% of performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya. This study therefore suggests research on other factors affecting performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya

In addition, this study focused on the influence of public participatory budgeting and Performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya. Having been limited to Performance of devolved units in Mt Kenya Region in Kenya, the study findings cannot be generalized to the performance of the national government. This study therefore recommends further studies on the influence of public participatory budgeting and Performance of the National government

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