

Planning and Development of Kakamega County in Kenya: Challenges and Opportunities

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Abstract

The study, sought to identify the contribution of private sector to the achievement of educational goals in The 27th of August, 2010 marked a watershed in the history of development planning in Kenya as the new constitution was promulgated. The constitution of Kenya (2010) anchors planning at the county government and at the National Government levels. The constitution ushers in a paradigm shift in the manner in which planning business is to be conducted in Kenya. Kakamega County is one of the 47 counties in Kenya. Because of the burgeoning population which stands at 1,660,651 people with the population growth rate of 2.5 % and a fertility rate of 5.6 % which is higher than the national fertility rate of 4.6%, Kakamega County is envisaged to be experiencing more challenges than any other county in Kenya. Kakamega County is ranked second after Nairobi County in terms of the population size. The paper examines the opportunities and challenges of Kakamega County in the light of the new constitutional order, identifying how opportunities can be harnessed as well as suggesting how the challenges can be surmounted, for sustainable planning and development of Kakamega County. It gives the way forward and lessons on how other Counties in Kenya can be effectively planned and managed for faster socio-economic development and hence eliminating the dependency syndrome culture.

Keywords: development planning, integrated planning, urbanization

INTRODUCTION

The new constitution which was promulgated in Kenya on 27th August, 2010 is expected to revolutionize the planning system in Kenya both national and the local context. Since independence in 1963, Regional or District Planning has been taking place in these levels. The first is sectoral through preparation of District Development plans (DDP's). DDP's are policies, programmes and projects which are implemented at the district level in line with the five- year national development plans. The second regional development planning takes place within the framework of regional development authorities. These plans focus more on resource development in the six major water catchments, notably (1)Tana and Athi (2)Lake Victoria basin(3)Kerio River Basin (4)EwasoNgiro North Basin (5)EwasoNgiro South Basin and (6) Coastal Basin (URCRD Kenya ,2001). The third type of regional development planning which is integrated focuses on creating a regional and physical development framework to facilitate the integration of sectoral and local physical or spatial development (PPA, 1996).

The policy framework within which the three types of regional development planning takes place is spelt out in sessional papers, five year development plans and other policy documents. The District focus for rural development which has been in force since 1983 operates in form of a decentralized planning strategy. Other new planning systems which have been

adopted include the constituency Development Fund (CDF) and the Local Authority Trust Fund (LATF). The current guiding principle in development planning in Kenya is the Kenya Vision 2030, which is a vehicle for accelerating transformation into a rapidly industrializing middle income nation by the year 2030. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) which focuses inter alia on poverty eradication, combating of diseases, provision of universal free primary education and ensuring environmental sustainability are being mainstreamed in all development planning cycles.

For the first time in the history of Kenya, development planning has been entrenched into the new Kenyan constitution. The constitution is expected to ensure that there is equity in resource distribution and allocation. It puts in place structures and modes of operation at the national and county government level.

Development Planning Constitutional Provisions

The constitution of Kenya (2010) emphasizes on the aspects of devolution and access to services. Article 6 of the constitution states that the territory of Kenya is divided into 47 counties. The governments at the national and county levels are distinct and interdependent, conducting their mutual relations on the basis of consultation and cooperation. It further states that a national state organ shall ensure access to its services in all parts of the Republic, so far as it is

appropriate to do so having regard to the nature of the service.

In chapter five on land and environment, the new constitution emphasizes that all land in Kenya shall be held and managed in a manner that is equitable, efficient, productive and sustainable and in accordance with the principles of equitable access to land; security of land rights, sustainable and productive management of land resources and sound conservation and protection of ecologically sensitive areas. Land resource is to be managed by the National land commission on behalf of the national and county governments.

The constitution considers environment to be sacrosanct as it states in Article 42 that every person has the right to a clean and healthy environment. The state is tasked to ensure sustainable exploitation, utilization, management and conservation of environment and natural resources, and ensure that there is equitable sharing of accruing benefits. The state also has a duty to work to achieve and maintain a tree cover of at least ten per cent of the land area of Kenya.

Article 184 of the constitution gives recognition to urban areas and cites and in particular specifies that the national legislation shall provide for the governance and management of urban areas and cities with clear mandates on formulation of criteria for designating areas as urban or cities, as well as establishing the principles of governance and management of urban and cities in a participatory manner. Chapter eleven of the constitution indicates that there shall be a county government of each of the 47 counties with county assembly and county executive, performing various development functions as stipulated in fourth schedule of the Constitution.

Kakamega County in perspective

Kakamega County is one of the four counties making up the defunct Western Province in Kenya. It is bordered by Busia, Siaya and Bungoma counties to the West, Nandi and Uasin Gishu counties to the East, Trans-Nzoia County to the North and Vihiga district to the south. The County lies between longitudes 34, 20' and 35 E and latitudes 0 15' and 1N of the equator. The total area of Kakamega County is 3,020 sq. Km (Kenya, 1997).

Over the years the greater Kakamega which has given rise to Vihiga as an independent county, has undergone source kind of rapid metamorphosis. Kakamega County has been subdivided into other smaller administrative units. The resultant districts are; Kakamega Central, Kakamega South, Kakamega North, Kakamega East, Lugari, Likuyani, Matete, Mumias, Matungu, Butere and Khwisero. The

purpose of creating these administrative units was to take services closer to the people.

According to the National Population Census and Housing of 2009, Kakamega County is the second most populous county after Nairobi County. It is home to 1,660,651 people with male and female population accounting for 800, 989 and 859,662 people respectively.

The population growth rate of Kakamega County is 2.5% and fertility rate is 5.6% which is higher than the national average of 4.6%. This underscores the need to put in place a set of projects and programmes for meeting the needs of the increasing population.

Kenya national population Census puts Mumias, Kakamega Butere, Lumakanda and Matunda with the population of 36,398; 91, 768; 12,780; 10,580 and 10,031 people respectively as the major urban centres within Kakamega County (Kenya, 2010).

Development opportunities in Kakamega County

Ecological factors influence the distribution of the natural resource base in Kakamega. This in turn influences the regional development especially population human settlement patterns. The interaction of ecologic factors and the nature of local socio-cultural systems and human activities at a regional level present development opportunities (UNCRD Kenya, 2001).

The physiographic and natural conditions of the environment in Kakamega County have defined the spatial patterns of development. The region has two short and long rain seasons with the rainfall varying from 1000mm per annum in the northern parts to 2400mm per annum in the southern parts. It has high temperatures all the year with slight variations in mean ranges from 28 c to 32c and 11c to 13c respectively. The mean annual evaporation ranges from 1600mm to 21mm with high humidity and low evaporation rates (Khamadi, 2005). The climates dictate and use patterns including agriculture, animal husbandry and settlement activities which are important for development variables in Kakamega County.

Land as a resource

Land is the main source of livelihood for the people in Kakamega County. About 70% of the area in the northern part of the region is under cultivation of maize both for commercial and home consumption purposes. 30% of the county area under cultivation is with cash crops, mainly sugarcane found in Mumias, Lurambi, Navakholo, Kabras and Butere area. Tea is grown on small scale in Shinyalu and Ikolomani and is now being introduced in parts of Khwisero. Coffee is grown on small scale in all parts of the county. Sunflower is an important cash crop in Likuyani, Lugari, Matete districts and a Kabras Division.

Livestock keeping is another dominant land use type in Kakamega County. But the area under pasture is presently being overtaken by maize and sugarcane, especially in Lugari and Likuyani districts, which have the largest area under maize, followed by the central division of Kabras, Ikolomani and Municipality Divisions. The area with the least maize cover is Mumias district due to preference for sugarcane (Kenya, 1997).

The agriculture sector has influenced development patterns of Kakamega County through creation of development inducing industries. Mumias sugar factory is the main industrial establishment in the county. It employs up to 4000 people and acts as a major generator of both commercial and social services. Another factory has been constructed and completed at Butali and is currently operational. The Butali Sugar factory has raised a new wave of optimism among over 25,000 farmers in Kabras sugar belt. The construction of Butali Sugar mill costed 3 million Kenya shillings (Daily Nation, 2010). This facility has had a multiplier effect on the socio-economy of the entire Kakamega County.

Water Resources

Kakamega County is well endowed with water resources which can be harnessed for faster socio-economic development. The high rainfall throughout the year makes the rivers and springs to be perennial, though Lugari area may have low water levels during the dry spells. There are two major rivers Viz; Nzoia and Yala and about fifteen tributaries to the Nzoia River. These are river Ikhamala, Isuikhu, Lusumu, Kipkareen, Sasala, Iaini, Luandati, Sergoit, Lumakanda, Vivatsi, and many other small tributaries. The average monthly mean discharge of the rivers varies between 2.8 cubic metres and 10.8 cubic meters with annual mean discharge of river Nzoia vary between 52-70 cubic meters (Kenya, 1997). Kakamega County has a high potential of ground water. There are about 390 boreholes. The average depth of striking water varies between 35m and 90m as controlled by the geology of an area. The policy makers of Kakamega County will utilize these water resources for irrigation, domestic and industrial use as well as exploring the possibility of generation of hydroelectric power (HEP).

Forestry

The land under gazetted forest cover within Kakamega County covers an area of 28,199.72 hectares. There are five forest stations Viz, Lugari, Turbo, Nzoia, Malava and Kakamega. The first three have a total area of 12171.3ha and are mainly composed of industrial plantation planted with pine, cypress and eucalyptus, which mainly supply pulp wood material in Pan Africa paper mills in Webuye. Malava and Kakamega are covered by mainly with indigenous forest with Croton Megalo Carpus,

Caltis Duvadii, Anigeir Altissimo, Ficus Exasperate, Fantumia Clastica and Bosquea Phoberos being the dominant species (Kenya, 1997). There is high potential for agro-forestry activities in the county due to high rainfall and fertile soils. The forestry at Kakamega County will continue to contribute towards making Kenya attain the target of achieving 10% tree cover beside play its roles as a carbon sink and mitigation of the effects of climate change.

Commercial minerals and material

Commercial minerals and materials constitute assets and potential for the development of Kakamega County. The region has a mineral production potential that is yet to be exploited because it requires considerable investment in modern technology. Gold bearing quartz veins exist along river beds and deep in abandoned gold mines at Rosterman.

Other less valuable minerals are sands in streams and rivers, clay pyrites at Bukura, graphite, molybdenites and quartz crystals. Ballast and stones for construction are available in such areas as Ikolomani, Shinyalu, Khwisero, Kabras and Lurambi. If these minerals and material are exploited it will improve the economic base of the county.

Tourist Attractions

Kakamega County has plenty of products which can be exploited for tourism. The tourist products range from the forests, beautiful scenery, and rich cultural heritage and cultural sites.

Kakamega Forest

Kakamega Forest is the major tourist attraction because of its biodiversity. Over 300 species of birds have been sighted; some of the endangered animals like Derazza monkeys have been identified; and various primates such as monkeys and baboons are also found in large numbers. Other includes; Bush pigs, Duikers, Pottos, Pangolins and snakes some of which are endemic to Kakamega Forest. Insects, mainly butterflies have made Kakamega Forest a research site. Being the only remaining Guene Congolantropical Rain Forest in Kenya, Kakamega Forest plays an environmentally critical role in regulating the rainfall regime in one of the most important water catchment areas in the Eastern Africa region (Kenya, 2007). Kakamega Forest has fostered development of the county through employment generation in hotels, travel and guiding services and revenue collection in gates. As an example Rondo Retreat centre which is located within Kakamega Forest is a popular place with accommodation facilities in a natural and serene environment that attracts many tourists from all over the globe. The road to Rondo Retreat centre has been improved to facilitate movement of tourists to the recreational centre.

Beautiful scenery

The Nandi escarpment forms a structuring element at Kakamega County. The escarpment forms the catchment zone for streams such as Kidia, Kabkalet and Nunugo which flow westwards to form the Isukhu River which flows through Kakamega Municipality area to be joined in Lunza area by the Lusumu River which drains the area between Kakamega and Malava forest. The escarpment, the hills, rocks the rivers, valleys and waterfalls which dot a cross Kakamega county can be identified and developed as tourist products as be linked is the Western tourists circuits.

Cultural Heritage

Kakamega County including Kabras, Isukha, IdhahoBunyore, and Wanga amongst other Luhya sub-tribes have rich cultural diversity. The communities are known for socio-cultural practices and activities which include traditional dances and bull fighting. The major artefacts include baskets, traditional cooking pots, farm implements (*Omwolo, Icheso, Isili*), herbal medicine, musical instruments, attire/costumes among others (Kenya,2007).If these elements of socio cultural heritage are document and marketed, they will add into the list of tourist products available in Kakamega County.

Historical sites

Mumias town is one of the historical sites in Kakamega County. Mumias town was first identified as an important outpost by Nabongo Mumias of Wanga (King of Wanga) in 1883 when the historic chief welcomed Bishop Hannington to be brought from Uganda and be buried at Mumias, the grave stands to date outside the current town Hall. Nabongo of Wanga was a paramount in the late part of his life. He died in 1949 and isburied at Matungu four Kilometres from the town centre (Kenya, 1997). Kakamega County was at one time known for gold mining during the colonial period. There are abounded gold mines at Rosterman within Kakamega Municipality which could be zoned as historical sites for tourist purposes(Municipal Council of Mumias, 1997, 2002).

Knowledge Based Institutions

Educational institutions are available within Kakamega County.MasindeMuliro is one of the public universities in Kenya to be established and is gradually becoming the nerve centre for training students at certificate, diploma, undergraduate and post graduate level. MasindeMuliro University which is located in Kakamega Town became a fully-fledged university through an Act of parliament. It has its other campuses in Sangalo in Bungoma, Nairobi and Ebungangwe. MasindeMuliro University offers demand driven courses in Sugar agronomy, ethics and corruption studies, sugar manufacture, criminology and criminal justice, global education

and linkages. The programmes offered by the Faculty of science and Engineering include civil and structural , electrical and communications, computer science, mathematics, physical science, biological science, production engineering, educational Planning and management and literature, science and mathematics, social science, journalism and mass communication, and social work and criminology. In the school of public Health one can study nursing, optometry and Vision Sciences, health promotion and sport sciences and human nutrition and dietetics. The universality also provides training at post graduate level in statistics, pure mathematics, physics and chemistry, disaster preparedness and engineering management, disaster management and sustainable development, disaster management and humanitarian assistance, and conflict resolution management. The institution has a well-endowed library that has current literature and electronic journals and sufficient seating capacity to serve its over 4000 student population with a strong commitment to research. The college also gives students and researchers, an opportunity to partner with other colleges through a UNESCO-funded project on e-waste management geared towards developing a national management strategy for sustainable development (Daily Nation, 2010). Masinde Muliro University which aspires to be a technology University is already making an impact within Kakamega County as the institutions injects about one billion Kenya shillings annually to the local economy. Masinde Muliro University is a key asset and potential for driving development activities within Kakamega County and to realize vision 2030.

Bukura Agricultural College is another institution that is set to influence development in the county. Bukura is a state corporation established in 1999 by an Act of parliament to award diplomas in various agricultural disciplines. The college has opened its gates to pre- service students, which has seen the population of learners skyrocket from 290 to the current 600 in 2010.The college offers diploma course in agriculture and biotechnology, horticulture, animal production and health management, agriculture, agricultural business management and marketing, home economics and agricultural extension and rural development. It offers a certificate course in agriculture and community development, project planning and management and mushroom production techniques. Bukura College is offering degree courses in collaboration with Kakamega based Masinde Muliro University of science and Technology. The courses offered are agriculture and biotechnology agriculture extension and education (sandwich and regular) and agribusiness management and marketing (Standard, 2010).

The college which is located in Lurambi Constituency currently provides agricultural extension outreach programmes to local farmers in Kakamega County, on how to improve their livestock and crops production in order to earn better returns.

Urban centres

Urban centres in Kakamega County are offering numerous opportunities for development. The first analyst to formulate and apply a systematic and comprehensive centre- hinterland development model, to developing counties was Friedmann. Popularly known as the core interaction model, it was originally set forth in his study of Venezuelan regional development. An effective regional policy had to deal as a system with the separate development of core regions, upward and downward traditional areas, resources frontiers and special problem areas. Friedmann has since maintained that development occurs through a discontinuous but cumulative process on innovation originated in the core areas and diffused into the peripheral regions (Akatch, 1998).

An attempt was made to translate Friedmann's centre-periphery theory through the growth centre strategy in 1978 which categorized human settlements in four categories; designated Local centre, designated market centre, designated rural centre and designated urban centre. In the past three decades the urban scene in Kakamega County has changed drastically.

According to the 2009 population and housing census, only five urban centres of Mumias, Kakamega, Butere, Lumakanda, Matunda were reflected as having high population totals of 161,557 inhabitants. The urban centres will be important in the county as the focal points for industrial, commercial educational, residential and employment areas for the increasing population. All the stakeholders will need to address themselves to the issues pertaining to short term and long term plans for the growth of urban centres.

Development institutions

Institutional systems provide a framework for better social order in a community as well as public policy formulation and implementation process. They are also requisite for legitimizing policies, social values and actors embodied in resource development and utilization, economic programmes, governance practices and promoting specific cultural heritage (URCRD Kenya, 2001). Kakamega County has a multiplicity of institutions which would require restructuring in order to conform to the new constitutional dispensation. Lake Basin Development Authority (LBDA) is the only Regional Development Authority operating in Kakamega County. Since establishment in 1979, its prime objective is to plan, implement, coordinate and implement projects in the

Lake Basin region which is defined as the entire catchment area of all the rivers draining into the Lake Victoria. The total area is 47,709sq.km including Kakamega county area of 2,963 sq.km.

Other institutions playing major developmental roles in the county include; local Authorities of Malava and Butere Town councils, Butere-Mumias Kakamega and Lugari county councils and Kakamega and Mumias Municipal council. Local authorities actualize their development projects and programmes through Local Authority Trust Fund (LATF). However these Local Authorities have been now collapsed to be under the authority of the County Governor in the new constitutional dispensation. District Development Committee (DDC) Land control Boards, Physical Planning Liaison committees, Hospital Management committees, District Environment committees, District Agriculture Board, District Education Board are other institutions making significant impact in the development of the county. Parastatals and Authorities operating in the region include Telkom Kenya Limited, Postal Corporation of Kenya, Kenya Power and Lighting Company, National Cereals and Produce Board, Kenya National Highways Authority, Kenya Urban Roads Authority, Kenya Rural Roads Authority, Agricultural Finance Corporation of Kenya, Agricultural Research institute(KARI), Kenya Wildlife Service and Lake Victoria North Water services Board among the non-governmental organizations which are active in the area including Rural service programme, Education centre for women and Democracy, and Japanese International cooperation (JICA). Other institutions include; community based organization, women groups, self-help groups, Youth groups, Faith-based organizations and Trade unions. An appropriate institutional framework will be needed to synchronise these diverse initiatives with the new constitution in order to avoid institutional conflicts and duplication of efforts.

CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD

Kakamega County is beset by a myriad of problems and constraints that include; congestion occasioned by lack of traffic management plans, inadequate provision of public utilities, sanitation, inadequate provision of sewer coverage, poor development control, mushrooming of slums in upcoming centres, uncontrolled subdivision, poor roads network / connectivity, environmental challenges like solid waste disposal, lack of political good will, unemployment and poverty and weak revenue base. Kakamega County requires a sustainable plan to be prepared for it to overcome the challenges and to realize vision 2030 which aims towards having a globally competitive and prosperous Kenya. The policy makers and planners will need to think seriously on how to provide services and creation of

employment for the increasing population. The challenges confronting Kakamega county will need to be identified isolated and addressed in the short term and long range basis.

Population

Kakamega County is ranked second to Nairobi in terms of population. The county is inhabited by over 1660, 651, people (Kenya, 2010) with population growth rate of 2.5 %. The fertility rate in the region is 5.6% which is higher than the National average of 4.6%. It is estimated that the Youthful population of ages 15-35 years accounts for 33% while the population below 35 years is about 1,328,521 people, accounting for about 80% of the population (Kenya, 2010). Given that the bulky of the population is youthful, the challenges associated with these include interalia; creation of employment opportunities, provision of essential services, and ensuring food security. In dealing with the challenge of the increasing population, there will be need for think Tanks to devise ways and means of generation of resources to fund development activities including job creation and provision of educational and health facilities. In particular, family planning programmes needs to be intensified in order to reduce the rapid population growth. The Ministry of Health, Family Planning Association of Kenya and other relevant bodies would be instrumental in influencing change in this sector.

Poverty

Poverty levels in the county stand at 52%. It means that more than half the population of the region lives is poor. The main cause of poverty in County is a combination of many factors including low productivity of agricultural sector due to retrogressive methods of farming and high cost of fertilizer and seeds, poor management of cooperative societies, poor marketing systems, poor infrastructure, indulgence in illicit brew, indolence, limited access to credit, insecurity, poor adoption of technologies and high cost of production among others (Kenya, 2008, 2010). Poverty can be combated through reversal of factors causing poverty.

HIV/AIDS

The gender dynamics in the HIV/AIDS epidemic cannot be overlooked. Most AIDS deaths occur between ages 25 and 35 years for men and between 20 to 30 years for women. Thus implies that young women are more vulnerable than men assuming an average incubation period of ten years. The current HIV prevalence in the County stands at 6.6 % which is higher than the national prevalence rate of 6.3% (Kenya, 2009). The factors that contribute to HIV/AIDS in the region include; drug and substance abuse, poverty, widow inheritance, break down of family units, domestic violence, sexual abuse, urbanization, unemployment and peer influence.

The emerging trend in HIV infections is that married couples are more infected than people who are not married. The challenge, brought by HIV/AIDS in Kakamega County include poverty involving poor resource empowerment both at family and community level, ever increasing orphans who need support, slow changes in behaviours, lack of funds to implement planned projects and lack of ARVs in some testing centres.

The fight against HIV and AIDS should always revolve around sanitization for behavioural change, shunning of repugnant practices such as widow inheritance and polygamous marriages, use of condoms and abstinence as well as opening up of more VCT centres. A Strategic Plan indicating how this pandemic will be dealt with needs to be developed specifically for Kakamega County.

Inadequate Infrastructure Facilities

Poor infrastructure is a major constraint to development in Kakamega County. These include, roads, energy supply and water provision.

Roads

Most of the roads in the county are earth roads. A small portion of the roads in the area are all weather roads. Since Kakamega receives plenty of rainfall all the year round, most roads are impossible due to poor conditions. The only existing tarmacked roads are Kakamega – Kisumu, Kakamega to A104, Kakamega-Mumias. All other roads are in a pathetic state and have too many potholes. As a result motorists have shunned those roads and thus impacting on the linkages between Kakamega and the outside world; and more specifically on accessibility of farm produce and raw materials to the markets.

Energy supply

Inadequate provision of power supply is also a major constraint especially to industrial development and indeed most rural centres in the county do not have electricity, which greatly hinders the growth and expansion of business ventures in the area. As a result of lack of electricity most artisans cannot use electrical equipment hence reducing their productivity and lowering quality of their materials. Similarly small agro-based industries cannot be set up in rural areas which are not served with power. There is need to extend the on-going rural electrification programmes to reach remote areas. The think-tank should also explore the possibility of establishing micro- power stations using the rivers in order to generate power to be supplied at affordable rates.

Water Supply

Despite the fact that Kakamega County is well blessed with plenty of water resources from the underground and surface water sources; this has not

been fully exploited. The percentage of households with access to piped water in Kakamega County is relatively low compared with many other regions in Kenya.

Environmental Issues

The environmental issues confronting Kakamega county deforestation involving falling of trees for domestic use and systematic exportation by saw millers without corresponding replanting programme might leave the land sustainable to erosion and could lead to environmental detraction. The heavy rainfall that is being received in the area makes the soil vulnerable to erosion and thus tends to reduce agricultural productivity of the forms in the county.

It should also be noted that there is some pollution of River Nzoia occasioned by discharge of effluence from Pan Paper Mills at Webuye. This factory is temporarily not operational as at now. On the other hand high population increase is exerting pressure on land leading to environmental degradation. In dealing with environmental improvement, special focus should be accorded to programmes that are intended to reduce population growth including family planning. Use of alternative sources of energy other than firewood should be encouraged as well as promotion of afforestation, re-afforestation and agro forestry strategy for environmental protection and improvement.

Migration

It has been documented that Kakamega County has a long history of out migration since the colonial times starting after the creation of the "White Highlands" of which Lugari was part (Kenya, 1994). Despite its long distance from Nairobi, the County contributes to numbers of workers in public and private sectors who have in turn attracted others over the years to the capital city of Nairobi and other major towns in Kenya. The continued migration in search of more land and jobs could be a positive as well as a negative attribute. It is positive in the sense that the migrants remit resources generated from the Diaspora to Kakamega County which could be channelled for development activities. On the other hand the county can suffer as a result of brain drain whereby the population lacking capacity to develop the region is left behind leading to under development of the county.

The migration process can be stemmed through provision of adequate infrastructure facilities, employment creation and ensuring balanced urban and rural development.

CONCLUSION

The paper has outlined the new constitutional provisions touching on the emerging planning paradigms in Kenya and its implication to the

development of Kakamega County. It has identified numerous opportunities and potentials for development including land as a resource as it relates to agriculture, water resources, Forestry, commercial minerals and materials, tourist resources, urban centres as development growth poles and educational Institutions and especially MasindeMuliro University of Science and Technology, which are development variables, that would be instrumental in propelling Kakamega County to realize vision 2030 and sustainable development for the region. The paper suggests that there will be need for re-engineering and realignment of both existing institutions and those that will be created in order to surmount the various challenges confronting the county including; rapid population growth, poverty, HIV/AIDS pandemic, inadequate infrastructure facilities and environmental degradation.

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