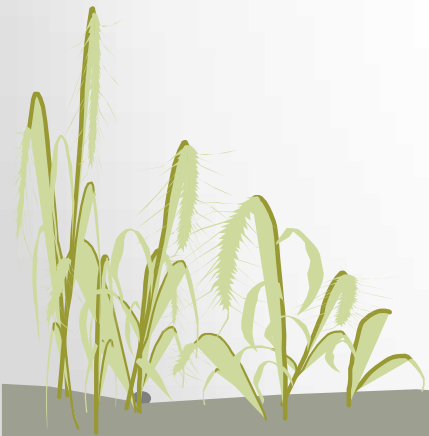


DEVOLUTION AND HEALTH

Prof. Lukoye Atwoli
Dr. James Nyikal
Mr. Kinuthia wa Mwangi



Mr. Kinuthia wa Mwangi

- 95% of health services have been devolved according to the laid down procedure.
- Duties allocated to the National Government: National policy development, Capacity building, Technical support, Setting standards.
- County Government: Implementation of the standards that have been set by the national government.
- Challenges: Interference by MCA's, Removal of facility development funds, no remittance of funds to the hospitals for maternity



Dr. Sopa

- Hospital management boards that were there prior to devolution were abolished.
- Money collected from hospitals is put in the county's bank account awaiting reallocation- major challenge(health care financing)
- Human resource hiring is still a problem as well as remuneration.
- Availability of drugs is still a problem.
- Infrastructure: Painting of buildings.



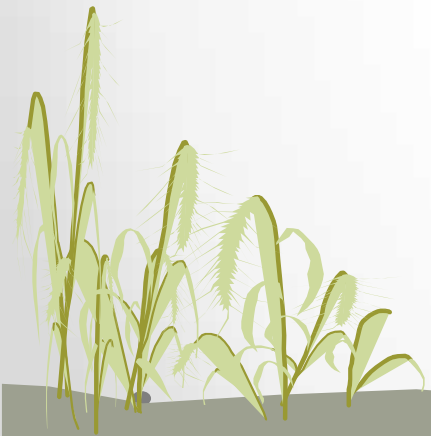
Dr. Nyikal

- Infrastructure is present and improving but this is not equal to efficient service delivery.
- The process of devolution was rushed: Impossible to have everything transferred in a day. It should be in phases.
- Refer to section 15 of the Kenya Constitution. It stipulates what the process entails.
- Devolution is good but needs policy and guidelines in order to make it deliver services adequately.



Prof. Atwoli

- Is there a law that designates national referral health facilities?



Questions

- Uasin Gishu has hired 300 health workers while Machakos has not hired. Why the difference?
- Bungoma County Hospital has not hired specialized skills- consultants. Are there guidelines that stipulate how hiring is done? Procurement is a problem. Should governors/politicians be left to manage the hospitals? Patients are suffering.
- Why can't doctors become politicians who will champion the change they want to see?



- Financing: What actions have been taken to build on the gains that had been made prior to devolution?
- Human Resource: For how much longer will people wait for plans to materialize in order to enjoy the fruits of devolution?
- Why can't we as doctors working in the public sector demand that services be improved? Why do we seek refuge in the private sector?
- Is there democracy in health?



Responses

- A mistake was made in not following the laid down procedure to ensure proper transfer of functions.
- The purpose of devolution was to ensure that vital functions are delivered to the lower most sector of the government. The citizens are then left to manage their own resources.
- Enforce the application of conditional grants through an act of parliament.
- Marginalized counties have reaped more benefits from devolution compared to other more developed areas.



- Counties do not want to be audited by the national government, they consider that as interference. The purpose of auditing is to ensure uniformity in terms of hiring human resources, health service delivery, infrastructure.
- It's time we came up with solutions and implemented them as doctors and stop relying on politicians.
- Collect evidence showing the actual impact of devolution.
- Produce policies, standards and norms on devolution.

