

38th KUASS

(Kyoto University African Studies Seminar)

Devolution in Kenya: Implications for security

Date: Apr. 30 (Thu), 2015, 15:00 – 17:00

Venue: Small-sized seminar room II, 3F Inamori Center, Kawabata Campus, Kyoto University

Title: **Devolution in Kenya: Implications for security**

Presenter: Prof. Kennedy Mkutu

(Visiting Professor at ASAFAS, Kyoto University, Professor at International Relations and Peace Studies United States International University)

Abstract:

March 2013 marked the beginning of a new devolved governance system in Kenya, widely supported as an answer to the marginalization and underdevelopment of Kenya's peripheries. Not all functions are devolved, and national security remains largely in the hands of the central government. However, many issues relevant to security, such as trade development, urban planning, health and regulation of drugs and alcohol are now in the hands of local government, along with a budget allocation of 15% of the national budget. This study is based on fieldwork in 5 counties, including both rural and urban locations. It considers the impact of devolution on Kenya's security, taking a broad approach, considering not only security governance but also drivers of insecurity in counties. It highlights a wide range of issues, including changes in the balance of power amongst ethnic groups, public participation in security decision making, radicalization, insecurity in the transport sector, and youth unemployment. It concludes that devolution has the potential to mitigate drivers of insecurity through development and participation, but that the capacity to implement devolution is currently limited, and that devolution brings with it new political challenges and conflicts.

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