

EXECUTIVE-LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, POLICY IMPLEMENTATION DELAYS AND DEVOLVED COUNTY GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY IN SELECTED COUNTY GOVERNMENTS IN KENYA

Dennis Omwamba Masenge.

PhD Student, Department of Policy and Administration, Kenyatta University, Kenya.

Dr Wilson Muna.

Senior Lecturer, Department of Policy and Administration, Kenyatta University, Kenya.

Dr Felix Kiruthu.

Senior Lecturer, Department of Policy and Administration, Kenyatta University, Kenya.

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ABSTRACT

Policy implementation is a crucial phase of the public policy process which serves as a key pillar in the policy design. Public policy implementation process is part of the pre-decision phase of policy making that entails physical operationalization of the policies on the ground in an aim of achieving the specific goals, agendas, priorities as stated in the policy paper. The main objective of the research was to examine policy implementation delays and its effect on devolved governments service delivery in County governments in Kenya. The research's target population was 331 respondents, which included: County secretaries, executive committee members, County Assembly speakers, Chief officers, county assembly members, Opinion Leaders, Civil society delegations, and County political party leaders. The study sample size was 259 of the study population. The study employed Yamane's formula (1969) to determine the sample size. The theory of separation of powers and the structural-functionalist approach was used to inform the research. Data was presented using bar graphs, tables, charts, and histograms. Nine party officials, two county secretaries, and two county assembly speakers were interviewed for the study. Expert opinion was used to evaluate the validity of the study instrument, while Cronbach's Alpha was used to assess the study instrument's reliability. Descriptive and inferential statistical techniques were used to analyze the data. Correlation and regression analysis was done to establish the relationship between the variables. Quantitative data was analysed using multi-linear regression approaches and Pearson correlation analysis. Stepwise regression was used to analyze the moderating

variable. The study then presented quantitative data using tables and figures. Qualitative data was organized based on the themes of the study, analysed using content analysis, and then reported in continuous prose. The policy implementation delays accounted for 0.07% of county government service delivery in Kisii and Meru counties. Besides, the results (sig. =0.034, $r=0.194$) indicate a weak but significant relationship between policy implementation delays and county service delivery in Kisii and Meru counties. The study recommends that the legislature and executives should strengthen coordination and communication between different departments and levels of government involved in policy implementation. Regular meetings, clear communication channels, and information sharing via digital platforms(technology) can all help achieve this. Additionally, it is recommended that the two county arms allocate resources to enhance public officials' capacity to implement policies.

INTRODUCTION

County governments in Kenya remains an important role player in ensuring effective service delivery and basic infrastructure. The developmental role assigned to county governments requires adequate institutional capacity and timely implementation of sound strategic policies. Any slight delays in policy implementation adversely affects local service delivery. County governments have the mandate to provide their communities with services which are a priority, well-informed by a consultative process, and sustainable Dlamini & Reddy (2018).

Dlamini and Reddy (2018), further postulates that policy implementation process encompasses a number of steps. In the first step of the policy implementation process, county governments are expected to carry out a situational analysis of the current context in their area of jurisdiction and an intended policy output to curb the situation. The second step of the implementation process emphasises the formulation of strategies which involve development of a common vision and objectives in the short-term, mid-term, and long-term among multiple stakeholders on the intended policy implementation. The third step involves development of operational strategy, and emphasis on the designing of policy proposals by setting up objectives, targets and indicators. The fourth step includes the screening, adjusting, consolidating and approving of policy proposals, thereby ensuring an integrated process between preparation, implementation, delivery and evaluation. The fifth step focuses on the decision and presentation of the said policy to by the executive to the assembly for endorsement and ascent by the governor. The last step of the implementation of the policy process involves the assessment of whether the policy solves and meets the expectations of the public in terms of overing a solution to the triggered situation (Dlamini &Reddy, 2018). County governments executive and county assembly members need to properly conceptualise and understand the implementation process of the said policy in order to improve and speed up its processes towards improving service delivery Ngigi and Busolo (2019).

Under Kenya's Constitution (2010) and County Government Act (2012), the executive branch, represented by the governor and his executive team, is solely accountable for formulating policies, carrying out law provisions, and overseeing the overall county administration. However, these policies gain authority after the county assembly's deliberation and endorsement (Mutisya et al., 2020). In other words, the constitution guarantees the county assembly the authority to vet and supervise projects and programs and guide, refer, interacting with the administration in the process when executing its tasks. This implies harmony and collaboration between the legislative and executive branches are necessary for county governments to run smoothly and steadily. The rationale behind the frequent utilization of the numerous safeguards provided by the Constitution to legislators, who serve as the people's representatives, is to ensure accountability. This usually leads to conflict, squabbling, and unhealthy rivalry between the two branches of government, which causes delays in the execution of policies (Nzao &Iravo, 2018).

Campos and Reich (2019) contend that policy implementation delays can significantly impact service delivery. This happens when policies are not implemented promptly, resulting in

delays, inefficiencies, and dissatisfaction among service recipients. Some potential consequences of policy implementation delays on service delivery include increased waiting times, delays in implementing policies, and longer waiting times for individuals seeking services. This can be frustrating for service recipients and may reduce their overall satisfaction with the service. When policies are not implemented promptly, it can lead to misallocation of resources. This can result in service providers being overwhelmed in some areas while underutilized in others, leading to inefficiencies and reduced service quality. Delayed policy implementation can also lead to services not meeting the expectations of service recipients. This can occur when policies are not fully understood or communicated effectively to service providers, resulting in inconsistent service delivery (Raofi, Takian, Sari, Olyaeemaneh, Haghghi & Aarabi, 2020)

In this sense, Ngigi and Busolo (2019) contend that budget allocation delays undermine the goals of public policy implementation. Gaps between policy objectives and policy execution are caused by failures or delays in using a sizable amount of the available money, reallocating cash between line items, inadequate local procurement procedures, and delays in disbursement of funds at the central level. Delays in policy implementation may potentially have a detrimental effect on service results. It may result in missed opportunities, reduced effectiveness, and compromised effectiveness of the intended policy objectives. To mitigate the adverse effects of policy implementation delays on service delivery, policymakers must prioritize timely implementation and provide clear guidelines and resources to service providers. Frequent observation and assessment can assist in identifying and addressing implementation challenges early to ensure efficient and effective service delivery (Freund, Hallward, & Rijkers, 2016).

Problem Statement

Handling executive and legislative relationships is seen as one of the impediments towards high legislative approval rates in county governments in Kenya. A political contest between the executive and county assembly has always ensured, in varying degrees, that both arms exercise their legally granted powers through ways that create consequences and repercussions for policy approval rates in county governments in Kenya (Ouma,2021).

The relationship between the two arms has been characterized by legislation gridlocks, partisan polarization, role conflict, mutual suspicion, acrimony, political mistrust, political rivalry, political party disciplinary processes, and Impeachment motions targeted toward the executive and county assembly speakers hindering efficient and effective service delivery (Musiega, Nyawira, Tsofa, Njuguna, Munywoki, Hanson, & Barasa, 2023).

Particularly, peculiarities of executive-legislative relations cases of serious impulse have been witnessed in Nairobi, Makueni, Murang'a, Wajir, Kiambu, Kisii, Meru, and Nyamira counties. In contrast, minor frictions have been witnessed in Kericho, Siaya, Elgeyo Marakwet, and Samburu counties. (Nyarangi & Wangare, 2023).

Different cases presented various scenarios and backgrounds. What then informed dis-similar designs? Is it political alignments existing among the county assemblies and executive? Or is it the individual interests of the players? Can the forces within and outside the county assemblies and its near setting impact their legislative roles? If it happens to be yes, under what state(s)? how do these factors advance disharmonious and harmonious executive-legislative relationships within context of county administrations in Kenya? Subsequently, this research attempted propping into the legislature approval rates and devolves government service delivery in Kenya's Kisii and Meru County governments by providing empirical responses to these questions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical and empirical literature

The study will be guided by two theories that is human factors theory and domino theory.

Theory of Separating Powers

The concept of power separation has its roots in the writings of philosophers dating back to the 6th century AD. These philosophers, such as Aristotelian philosopher Polybius, Roman philosopher Cicero, and the French philosopher Machiavelli, argued that mixed systems of one, the few, and the many are the most effective in the real world, as they result in the establishment of a system of control. The doctrine of power separation is a crucial feature of any sound working political system. This was first postulated by Montesquieu (1689-1755), who postulates that relationship is designed in that the same individual must not be allowed to be involved in more than one of the three arms of administration, one administration arm ought not inhibit the functions of the other and that one arm of government must not execute the roles of the other administrative arms. (Jacobs 2019).

Montesquieu argued that the separation of powers should be governed by the trials polita principle, which necessitates a formal separation between legislative, judicial, and executive branches. This principle depends on personnel, which says that the same person should not serve in more than one of the three branches of the government. This principle is also supported by the principle of separation of functions, which states that each organ should not interfere with or assume the role of the other to achieve a balance between the three branches.

This theory was essential to this research, as it provided a comprehensive insight into the extent to which the executive and legislative branches of government in Kenya are distinct from one another and their respective terms of reference as mandated by the 2010 Kenyan Constitution. Kenyan citizens have entrusted the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government at the national, county, and local government levels, respectively (Kabau (2013). It further postulated how the executive and county assembly should work cordially without stepping on each other's mandate. The theory, too, acted as an essential guide to unlocking the factors that hinder or promote legislative approval rates in county administrations in urge improving service delivery and management and implementation of policies that spurs development in Kisii and Meru County governments in Kenya.

Almond (1969) introduced the structural-functionalist approach, which sought to provide uniform and integrated explanations applicable to all elements of a political system. As per scholars such as Almond, structural-functional examination requires all political structures to fulfill certain essential functions; the other hand determines which structure meets those functions (Almond, Peter, 2005). In this regard, Almond proposed an approach to study of political structures that considers not only the structural elements of organizations nonetheless also roles within the organization.

In structural functionist approach, County government is seen as a social structure, and the executive and the legislature are parts of a system or government that perform specific tasks (Barney, 2014). The legislature makes laws, but the executive makes them happen. This highlights the necessity of the executive and county assemblies' mutual interdependence through functional interactions within the policy process. Although the executive and county assembly may differ in their personnel and functions, they work together as governance institutions to maintain county governments. As an open system, these relationships are affected by both internal and external factors, as well as the existence of a legitimate force that holds them together. The association between the administrative and legislative arms, interactions between the two, and association between the two in terms of amenity provision and policy formulation are fundamental to the functioning of county governments.

Empirical Literature Review

Additionally, Bolleyer (2017) undertook a study on the relationship between the two arms besides the implementation of policies in federal systems in the European Union. The study examined the E.U. member states' policy and project implementation processes and how they enhance government accountability. The survey collected primary data using a structured questionnaire. Results revealed that a well-coordinated relationship between the executive and legislature is essential for the administration to implement timely policies and projects to meet public demand. Good communication and updates on policies and project status on the ground foster quick service delivery and Government running, allowing smooth accountability of state organs on public resources. Because the study was conducted across all European Union member states, it was subject to methodological limitations resulting from unobserved heterogeneities, such as differences in institutional structures and cultures.

The implementation of regulations restraining the generalization of research findings in the local context and distorted assessments of the executive-legislature interaction may result from the unobserved heterogeneities. The new study used the separation of powers doctrine, whereas the previous study lacked any theoretical foundation. In a developed country, the study was carried out at the national level of government; in a developing country, the study was undertaken in the sub-national level.

Fatile (2017) studied the creation and execution of public policies in Lagos State, Nigeria, and the connections between the executive and legislative branches. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches were applied in the investigation. A structured questionnaire that the

researcher created was used as a quantitative method. Three qualitative methodologies were used: focused group discussions (FGDs), interviews, and direct observation. Members of the devolved Assembly, Executive Council members, Permanent Secretaries, Directors, Deputy Directors, and other high-ranking public servants in the state's legislative and executive branches comprised the study's population. A cross-sectional survey research design was used in this study. Using purposive sampling, the study's eighty (80) respondents were chosen from Lagos State's legislative and executive branches. Secondary data were gathered from publications such as gazettes and manuals from the State House of Assembly, the governor's office, scholarly journals, media clippings, and official papers.

The evaluated study's conclusions showed increased performance in Lagos State's public policy formulation and implementation results from cooperative legislative-executive ties. It was found that the political elite exerts undue influence and meddling over politicians' appointments and finances. This study will concentrate on Kenya's devolved administrations, whereas Fatile's study was centered on policy procedures at the national government level in Nigeria. Fatile's study employed content analysis to collect qualitative data, while the current study employed an interview guide for the same purpose. The reviewed study and the current investigation diverge considerably in several conceptual areas. For example, the evaluated study has conceptual gaps since it only examined the interaction between the executive and legislature regarding the creation and execution of public policy; it neglected to analyze the impact of this relationship on county service delivery. Which limited how broadly its conclusions could be applied. The present study was done in Kenya, while the previous study was restricted to Nigerian culture and also based on secondary data.

Mutisya, Abonyo, and Senelwa (2020) also conducted research in Makueni County, Kenya, with a focus on projects and policy execution. It examined the relationship between legislative supervision and Executives' adherence to leadership and governance principles. The results demonstrated that legislators monitor government operations to ensure accountability and prompt service delivery and execution. Nevertheless, oversight is sometimes misunderstood as an antagonistic, blaming exercise meant to humiliate governments as they exercise their allocated authority. This study looked at the link between parliamentary oversight activity and the Executive's (Government's) commitment to leadership and governance principles to shed light with the intention and spirit of legislative oversight.

The study discovered that the county assembly member's relationship with the executive determines when projects in a certain Ward are implemented on schedule. Correlational and descriptive research designs were combined in the study's research strategy. A response rate of 70.4% was obtained from a sample of 71 respondents. The results were consistent with the intent of parliamentary supervision to ensure responsibility and caution in performing public duties. The current investigation proposes to use a mixed research design that combines explanatory and descriptive designs, in contrast to the composite study design that Mutisya, Abonyo, and Senelwa used.

Research Methodology

This study used both descriptive survey and explanatory study design. Descriptive research is undertaken to provide the study a describe or profile related to aspects of the phenomena of interest from an individual, industry-oriented, organization, organizational, or different perspectives (Abe & Monisola, 2014). A descriptive survey design facilitated the study by providing accurate aspects, happenings, and circumstances regarding the variables (Fellows & Liu, 2021).

On the same note, explanatory study design defines quantitatively the degree to which variables are associated (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Conversely, it is utilized in studies that establish causal relationships between variables. Explanatory study designs provided cause-and-effect relationships between variables (Asenahabi, 2019).

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Age and gender respondents

Data gathered on demographic profiles offered a realization of the population’s characteristics in the research. These characteristics comprised gender, county of work, position held at the county, work experience, and party affiliation, a summary of which is presented in Tables 1–6.

Table 1 age and gender respondents

	Gender	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	147	80.7	80.7
	Female	35	19.3	100.0
	Total	182	100.0	

Source: field data (2020)

Of the 182 valid questions, 147 were completed by men (representing 80.7%), while 35 women, representing 19.3%, administered 35. This indicates the gender imbalance in Kenya's county appointments. Additionally, it demonstrates that contrary to the Kenyan Constitution's (2010) recommendations, fewer women hold elective and nominative positions in selected counties. This result is consistent with Amondi, Otieno, and Itoyo (2015), who found that while women in Kenya participate in elective leadership roles, they are still underrepresented in positions of power and leadership, generally in politics. This is due to a cultural flaw in women's participation in elective leaders.

Respondents' County of residence/work

Table 2 Respondents' County of Residence/Work

	County	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Kisii	96	53	53
	Meru	86	47	100.0
	Total	182	100.0	

Source: Field data (2020)

According to the results above, 53.0% of respondents worked in Meru County, while 47.0% did so in Kisii County. To guarantee that the respondents are chosen from the two counties (Kisii and Meru Counties) of this study, this data was collected for representational purposes.

Respondents' Position at County

Table 3 Respondents' Position at County

Respondents	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Member County Assembly	94	51.7	51.7
Civil Society leaders	19	10.6	62.3
Council of Elders	24	13.1	75.4
County Workers Union	12	6.6	82
Chief Officer	11	6.0	88
CECM	9	4.9	92.9
Contractors Association	13	7.1	100
Total	182	100	

Source: field data (2024)

According to the survey, 51.7% of all respondents were county assembly members, 10.6% were civil society leaders, the Council of Elders was 13.1%, County Workers Union was 6.6%, the Contractors Association was 7.1, and CECM was 4.9 % while chief officers and county engineers were 6.0 % of the respondents. This study was satisfied that the respondents were sufficiently representative to supply the data required.

Respondents' Work Experience

The study respondents' years of service and associated experiences were determined, as shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4 Respondents' Work Experience

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 1 year	131	72.3	72.3
	1-5	35	19.3	91.6
	5-10	16	8.4	100.0
	Total	182	100.0	

Source: field Data (2024)

According to the statistics, 72.3% of respondents had worked for less than a year, 19.3% had worked for between one and five years, and 8.4 percent had worked for five years or more. Most of the respondents had one year of experience, as the results above demonstrated. This

pattern is connected to the fresh political wave that affected the choice of candidates for office Nyarangi, (2023). There have been new appointments due to the changing regimes in Kisii and Meru counties. The study was certain that the respondents had enough experience to offer the data required to draw conclusions.

Policy Implementation Rate and County Service Delivery

Table 5 Regression Analysis Policy implementation rate and county service delivery

Statement	N	Mean	SD
The executive always complies with the oversight committee's summons to shed light on contentious issues and the implementation status of policies	182	1.47	.204
The committee approach is effective and efficient in overseeing the excess of county executive in matters relating to policy processes	182	4.42	.403
Policy implementation delays lead to inefficiencies and dissatisfaction from the public.	182	4.15	.440
The executive respects the role of the assembly and consults and updates them on day-to-day implementation status of county projects and policies	182	3.32	1.491
Stakeholder consultations are always done before and after policy implementation to avert legality challenges.	182	3.67	.327
All policies enacted by the county assembly are implemented as passed without any alteration from the executive	182	3.68	.032
Adequate Financing is always available to facilitate policy implementation processes	182	4.32	1.491
The County executive has a smooth communication channel with limited bureaucracy used by the county assembly	182	4.18	.074
Monitoring and Evaluation are always done to ensure smooth implementation, limiting delays	182	3.41	1.115
Valid N (listwise)	182		

Source: Field Data (2023)

The table above shows that respondents disagreed at the mean of 1.47 and SD of .204 that the executive always complies with the oversight committee's summons to shed light on contentious issues and the implementation status of policies. Most of the participants disagree with the view that executives remain non-compliant with the summons by the executive. The situation has been exacerbated by the absence of measures that should be taken by the executive to account for its service delivery performance. This is a grave challenge, as discussed in the literature of this study.

Subsequently, committees are the most efficient way of enforcing compliance to the executive in doing what is expected of them (Burnell, 2002). The executive's hesitancy to comply with the legislature's summons primarily results in delays and ambiguous responses to committees. However, it should be noted that there are also cases where no responses are provided to requests, questions, and resolutions. However, to a great extent, there was an agreement from some respondents (mean 4.42 and SD 1.619) that the committee approach is effective and efficient in overseeing excess of the county executive and ensures equitable use of resources for development across the county.

When asked about Policy implementation, delays lead to inefficiencies and dissatisfaction from the public. They agreed at a mean of 4.15 and SD of 4.40. This implies that policy implementation delays lead to inefficiencies and dissatisfaction from the public due to delayed service delivery. These findings are congruent with Madue (2018), who held that Policy implementation delays could lead to total paralysis of service delivery, making the government ineffective and illegitimate to its subjects.

The scholar further notes that timely project implementation saves resources and accelerates development. However, Campos and Reich (2019) observe that delays in implementing policies can lead to longer waiting times for individuals seeking services. This can be frustrating for service recipients and may reduce their overall satisfaction with the services. He further notes that when policies are not implemented on time, it can misallocate resources, undermining the county government's service delivery goals. Interviewee **004** held that:

Sometimes, County governments experience delayed policy implementation due to delayed funding for the policies and projects by the national government, donors, and partners. Too many projects can undergo delays due to rogue contractors and inefficient monitoring and evaluation.

Further, Interviewee **005** held that:

Counties depend on the EX-Chequer to release funds to implement projects since the money collected at source is insufficient to finance county policies and projects.

The county executive has a smooth communication channel with limited bureaucracy used for the exchange of communications to the county assembly (mean 3.18 and SD.074) because the county executive values the role of the assembly and consults and updates them from day to day on implementation status of county projects and policies (mean 3.32 and SD 1.491), and the county oversight committee is well-funded to execute their mandate, the findings (mean 3.41 and SD 1.115) indicate that questioning an executive is mistakenly seen as a fault-finding activity meant to make the executive look bad. This was manifested when clarity was sought in an assembly that there are always stakeholder consultations done before and after policy implementation to avert legality challenges from the constitution and the public, with a (mean of 3.67 and SD.327). The respondents somewhat agree (mean 3.67 and SD.327) that stakeholder consultations are done before and after policy implementation to avert legality challenges. Most gridlocks come about when the executive does not constantly consult and update the assembly on the status of the implementation process of enacted policies.

On the question of whether the executive implements policies enacted by the county assembly without any alterations by the executive, the respondents seem to agree with (mean 3.68 and SD.032). These results align with those of Griglio (2020), who found that even if each branch of government has distinct responsibilities, the executive branch should not overstep its bounds or make essential choices without first consulting the assembly. Nonetheless, Lanre (2017) contends that the central legislature has always had disproportionate authority over the policy-making process and has contributed significantly to violent disputes in Nigeria.

Interviewee **007** held that:

[...] county executive respects the assembly's role and consults with it regularly. Consultations should always be a priority for all stakeholders to avert legality challenges and gridlocks.

Interviewee **002** observed that:

The county oversight committee is adequately funded to carry out its mandate [...] the executive and the assembly have a smooth communication channel. Too the executive should implement the policies passed by the assemblies minus any alterations. However, the assembly is sometimes misunderstood to be on the mission of a fault-finding exercise designed to cast the executive in a negative light.

Interviewee **001** emphasized:

Counties and county assembly committees are well-funded to execute their mandate. Insufficient resources can certainly hinder legislation and oversight of implementing policies in county government, as it limits the ability.

The respondents agreed on whether there is adequate funding to facilitate policy implementation, with a mean of 4.18 and

SD of 1.491. This means that there are always available funds set aside by the county governments geared towards the execution of a policy before the whole process of formulation and implementation kick starts. On whether Monitoring and Evaluation are always done to ensure smooth implementation limiting delays, respondents are generally ambivalent about whether Monitoring and Evaluation are always done to ensure smooth implementation limiting delays as shown by the score of 3.481 (out of a maximum of 5.0). The standard deviation of 1.115 indicates some variation in the respondents' perceptions, with some believing monitoring and evaluation are always done, while others disagree.

Test for Linearity

Table 6: Linearity Test Data

ANOVA Table

county	service	Between	(Combined)	15.794	28	.564	1.775	.022
delivery		Groups	Linearity	.332	1	.332	1.046	.309
*	Policy		Deviation from Linearity	15.462	82	.573	1.802	.061
implementation		Within	Groups	28.594	99	.318		
delays		Total		44.389	182			

Source: Field Data (2023)

The linearity test applied examined the value of Linearity and Deviation from linearity. If the value of significant linearity was less than 0.05 or the Deviation from Linearity was more than 0.05, then data was said to have a linear relationship between the policy implementation delays and devolved government service delivery in selected counties in Kenya. Linearity test for

county service delivery and policy implementation rate had a deviation from linearity of 0.061, which was more than 0.05.

Inferential Analysis

Regression Analysis

The study examined the influence of policy implementation rate on county government service delivery in Kenya. To achieve this, the study tested the hypothesis:

H₀₁: Policy implementation delays have no statistically significant effect on county government service delivery in Kenya.

Model: $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_2 X_2$

Table 7 Presents regression weights and standard errors of estimates.

Table 7 Model Summary on Policy implementation Delays and county government service delivery in Kenya.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.087 ^a	.007	-.001	.61364

a. Predictors: (Constant) Policy implementation delays

Source: Field Data (2023)

The coefficient of determination ($R^2=0.007$) shown in Table 9 indicated that the policy implementation delays accounted for 0.07% of county government service delivery in Kisii and Meru counties, leaving 99.03% to be accounted for by exogenous factors. The correlation between perceptions of policy implementation delays to county government service delivery in Kisii and Meru counties was weak but positive ($R=.087$). In addition, the study examined the model's goodness of fit using ANOVA, and the results are presented in Table 8.

Table 8: NOVA on policy implementation delays and county government service delivery

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	.332	1	.332	.883	.039 ^b
Residual	44.056	181	.377		
Total	44.389	182			

Source: Field Data (2023)

The regression output ($F=0.883$; $df=1$; $sig=.039<0.05$) revealed that the parameters used to measure policy implementation delays predicted county government performance as the production demonstrated a significant relationship. The hypothesis was then tested by running a simple linear regression. The rejection or acceptance was based on p-value where $p<0.05$ was accepted and vice versa. The test's results are shown in Table 9.

Table 9 Coefficients for policy implementation delays and county government service delivery

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.802	.254		11.039	.000
	Legislation approval rate	.068	.072	.087	.939	.039

Source: Field Data (2023)

The findings ($\beta = .068$, $t = 0.939$, $p = .039 < 0.05$) demonstrated that policy implementation delays significantly affect county government service delivery. The null hypothesis was, therefore, rejected at $\alpha = 0.039$. Therefore, the model equation derived from the results is $Y = 2.802 + 0.068X_2$ where Y is county government service delivery, X_2 is policy implementation delays, and e is error term.

Discussion

The study assessed the effect of the policy implementation rate on county service delivery in Kisii and Meru counties. The findings of descriptive statistics demonstrated that partisan polarization contributed to the county service delivery in Kisii and Meru counties. The result indicated that conflicts and rivalries among county governments stakeholders. The findings of descriptive statistics demonstrated that the policy implementation rate contributed to the county service delivery in Kisii and Meru counties. The result indicated adequate financing for implementing policies and projects, smooth communication channels with limited bureaucracies, and stakeholder consultations before and after policy implementation influence county service delivery in Kenya. The correlation analysis displayed a weak positive but statistically substantial relations between the policy implementation rate and county service delivery. This result denotes that a change in the policy implementation rate influenced some variation in the level of county service delivery. That is, as the policy implementation rate increases, county service delivery is improved, and vice versa. The regression analysis outcome indicated that the policy implementation rate had a direct influence and was statistically significant (a P-value of 0.039 was less than 0.05).

Conclusions and Recommendations

The ability of county assembly members was crucial in guaranteeing the calibre of bills and laws passed by county assemblies. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that the rate at which policies are implemented significantly affects Kenya's county service performance. The study concluded that committee hearings and interpellations were useful for performing supervision to guarantee county service delivery. The study also found that coordination procedures impacted county service delivery. It was discovered that the coordination processes included rivalries and conflicts, waste, and delays that affected how the county carried out its programs.

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