

THE LIAISON BETWEEN CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: IS IT INCLINED IN A SYMBIOTIC FASHION TO EASE SERVICE DELIVERY IN TANZANIA?

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ABSTRACT

It is not disputable that the symbiotic interface between the centre and local government is an elixir to service delivery. In the modern literature, this interface is referred to as intergovernmental relations (IGRs). It elucidates governments' interaction, be it either in a unitary or federal system. It refers not to an interface that hinges copious decision at the centre. On the contrary, it focuses on the devolvement of autonomy to lower tiers of government. This is evident in a scenario where sub-national government exhibits vibrant institutional capacity. The institutional capacity engrosses vivacious resources, lucid institutional arrangements, coherent policies, and feasible legal framework. The overall objective of the phenomenon is to bring the government closer to the governed and boost quality service provision. Despite copious benefits which have come as a result of this quest, the road towards building symbiotic relations has not been so smooth. The paradox has always been that the Center has continued to exercise control over local government. As a result, service provision at the grassroots has remained in a state of flux. In that regard, there is an over hatching need of trying to unveil the paradoxes that hold back lucid IGRs.

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