

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE CHALLENGES OF LOWER LOCAL COUNCILS IN MONITORING
NAADS PROGRAMME IN MANAFWA DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

The study focused on the challenges of lower local councils in monitoring the NAADS programme in Manafwa District. The research questions the study sought to answer included the following; to what extent do lower local councils effectively and efficiently monitor the NAADS programme? In what ways are lower local council's involved in monitoring NAADS programme? What are other factors that influence lower local councils in monitoring the NAADS program? A survey design was adopted by employing descriptive and analytical approach in the course of the study. A total of fifty respondents were interviewed mainly through semi- structured and open ended questionnaires. Sample selection approach involved simple and systematic random sampling techniques. A qualitative method was used to obtain general information while a quantitative method was for analysis of data that involved figures such as distribution of respondents, percentage and frequency. The study revealed that the lower councils encounter a number of challenges hence casting doubt as to whether the exercise is not ceremonial if not simply for getting allowances. Major challenges included failure to conceptualize monitoring, poor scheduling and planning, lack of technical competence, bureaucratic tendencies in accessing funds, transport and logistical difficulties and political interference. Monitoring is only done for the sake of it as a matter of routine.

The study found that well trained staffs are necessary perquisite for any effective monitoring. It is also necessary to build capacity of council in a manner that ensures that council understand the essence and procedure of monitoring.