

1.0. STRUCTURING GOVERNMENT

1.1. The Rationale for Structuring Government

The process of structuring government (s) is informed by several considerations. These include:

1. The government needs to be more efficient in its operations.
2. To make government more accessible to its people.
3. To enhance the role demarcation of the various branches of government as well as government institutions.
4. To better provide public goods and services to the citizenry.
5. To enhance public participation in government and governance matters.

1.2. The arms/Branches of Government

There are **three** arms/branches of government that work together each with its distinct roles and independence. In theory, all branches are equal but in practice, there are cases where some branch or branches may tend to overstep their mandate or overlook or even downplay the role of the other(s). These are:

1) The Legislature/Parliament

This is the legislative arm of government charged with the responsibility of making laws to help in governing. It is usually headed by a Speaker. It may be a **unicameral legislature** (single chamber legislature) or a **bicameral legislature** (double chamber legislature). Critical examples to illustrate the two are the Kenyan parliament before the 2010 Constitution and the current system after 2010 respectively.

2) The Executive

This is charged with the role of executing/implementing policies, laws and guidelines. It is headed by the Head of the Executive who may be a Head of State and Head of Government (in presidential systems) and in some cases by a Head of Government (in parliamentary systems). This will be discussed in detail later.

3) The Judiciary

This branch of government is charged with the role of interpreting the laws, the constitution as well as hearing and determining cases brought to them in accordance with the law. In many jurisdictions it is headed by a Chief Justice and it has a series as well as structures of courts at the various levels.