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Mr O Madumo University of Pretoria (Onkgopotse.Madumo@up.ac.za) Tel 27 12 420 5736
Mr N Nhede University of Pretoria (Norman.Nhede@up.ac.za) Tel 27 12 420 4140

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ms T Molelekeng University of Pretoria (Thuli.Molelekeng@up.ac.za) Tel 27 12 420 4143

PUBLISHER

P O Box 1399
Faerie Glen,
South Africa, 0043
Tel: + 27 12 420 3334/3606/3472
Fax: + 27 12 362 5265

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Erratum

African Journal of Public Affairs Vol.5 No.2 (Sept 2012)

P Pillay and C M Sayeed

Skills development and professionalism to promote food security policy implementation in South Africa.

Must read:

Mohamed Sayeed, C. and Pillay, P. 2012. Skills development and professionalism to promote food security policy implementation in South Africa. *African Journal of Public Affairs*, 5(2):68-7

Editorial

A number of African countries are experiencing tumultuous times. Countries like Egypt had a democratic election less than a year ago and has already experienced a *coup d'état*. Lybia has not recovered from its unrest while the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan/South Sudan and the Central African Republic are barely able to maintain law and order. The question now arises if Africa can indeed succeed in developing governmental systems which could provide sustainable services and can overcome the internecine uprisings demolishing civil society resulting in abject poverty and the displacement of communities. The recent killings and governmental difficulties in putting an end to the mass destruction of lives and properties in the northern parts of Nigeria are examples of attempts to counter structural, political and democratic disintegration and eradicate the continuous abrogation of the principles of law and order.

It has been argued on many occasions that Western systems of government cannot be exported to Africa. This is certainly true as the former colonial powers realised when the different African countries gained independence since the 1960s. However, African governments should devise systems and be committed to finding lasting solutions to make the continent a viable player in the international political, economic and social arena. Furthermore, food security is an increasing challenge to individual countries to counter the movement of refugees among countries which phenomenon is detrimental to the receiving as well as the loser country as it disrupts the social fabric of the relevant countries.

South Africa has been spared the scourge of major disruptions after democratisation in 1994. However, during the past decade civil unrest, civil disobedience and violent and destructive marches have already illustrated that many communities are frustrated with their seemingly inability to gain access to high quality public (municipal) services. Venting their anger by destroying infrastructure further limits the capacity of municipalities to provide sustainable services.

Government is facing serious challenges in its efforts to demonstrate its capacity to meet societal needs. The situation in other African countries should serve as a clarion call for the South African government to address the scourge of corruption and its attendant tension between governmental structures and society preventing reaching the goals of the developmental state. In the advent of the general elections of 2014, government should not be led astray by trying to score political points. It should attend to the real challenges at hand, reconcile factional disruptions and pave the way for a peaceful and fair general election to find the most effective alternatives to promote service delivery in the country.

In this issue of the Journal eight articles have been selected. They cover a variety of topics within the area of interest for scholars and policy makers intent on improving the public sector and the administration and management required to create a sustainable state with clear long term plans and a stable public service serving a peaceful society.

Archad and Abass consider the reformation of corporate governance in Malaysia and in particular the issue of auditing and accountability. This is followed by Barclay and Cloete's article on a corporate governance framework for the Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs). Van der Walldt submitted a theoretical article on the development of a typology of models in public administration and management as field of scientific inquiry.

The next article by Maphazi, Raga, Taylor and Mayekiso investigates the state of public participation in South African local government. Muller focuses on a specialised topic i.e. social capital and collaborative environmental governance in the West Coast biosphere. Sing focuses attention on the human factor in public administration by putting forward perspectives on enhancing change management in the senior public service cadre. A debate of the different perspectives on Leadership is highlighted in the contribution by Pillay, Subban and Govender, where a specific focus on the spirit of *Ubuntu* is made. Lukamba has the last word on doing an assessment of the state of the gold mining enterprise in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by focussing on one specific case.

Finally, it should be noted that the quest for academic and democratic vigilance is eternal scrutiny.

J O Kuye
Chief Editor

