



African Journal of Public Affairs

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J.O. Kuye
Chief Editor
African Journal of Public Affairs
(AJPA)

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Editorial

The *African Journal of Public Affairs (AJPA)* has progressed from inconspicuous beginnings to an internationally accredited Journal in the space of four years. This advance is due to the stringent editorial policy of the journal, but most importantly as a result of the high quality of the contributions by internationally acclaimed authors from Africa and beyond. The articles submitted for publication proves that African journals can compete with other international publications and that scholars from Africa has the knowledge and commitment to contribute to the sharing of administrative and managerial knowledge so necessary to improve the public administration doctrinaire in African countries. This is also a clear proof that scholars are co-operating in their efforts to improve public service delivery through efficient and effective systems and processes.

Since receiving the international accreditation from the IBSS, we note that in the first issue of the Journal for 2011, contributions had been received from four countries, all of which are engaged in developing systems to improve public service delivery through improved leadership, governance and administrative systems.

Nabaho focuses in the first article on performance measurement to improve the odds against real improvements in the public sector and uses Uganda as a case in point. **Mishra**, from India addresses the complexities of civil service leadership, highlighting the importance of training in the higher echelons of the civil service. **Bekker and Van Heyningen** add to the previous contribution by focussing on the role of leadership required for policy implementation by using the South African scene as point of departure. **Ile** addresses the need for public opportunities to promote democracy in Africa and her international experience is exemplified in her contribution. In his article **Thornhill** tackles the vexing problem of sustainability of public services by attending to the unresolved challenge of the third sphere of government in South Africa. **Tshishonga and De Vries** (our Dutch contributor) argues that the concept of a developmental state could not be fully applied to South Africa and thus opens the possibility for a scholarly debate on the concept. **Dassah** as one of the regular contributors to public administration discourse discusses the problematics of measuring governmental programmes in developing countries thereby drawing attention to the relationship between political ideologies and real delivery of services. **Sikhakane and Reddy** contribute to the need for proper accountability in the local government scene as one of the cornerstones of democracy. **Tshiyoyo** who hails from the Republic of the Congo attends to the role and status of the public service in his home country. **Brynard**, who pays particular attention to the various facets of policy, uses the policy (policies) against poverty to illustrate the complexity of governmental affairs. This article is followed by **Omotoye and Malan's** discussion of the efforts to increase the retention of the senior management cadre in the South African public service. **Van Dijk and Moeng** deal with the role of women in contributing to the successful implementation of land reform in South Africa. **Raga and Nano** take issue with the need for legislative and administrative directives to improve procurement as one of the functions often subject to controversy. **Kuye** provides the platform for the unresolved and re-emerging debates on the tentacles of a developmental state. He argues that simply put, the developmental state is informed and premised by strong interventionist

policies in order to address the quagmire of nation building and strategic development. The issue of the New Public Management and its justification in a post governance period is dissected by **Schoeman and Fourie** in the last article in this issue.

A novel addition to the *Journal* is the quarterly *Public Sector Barometer*. In this section scholars are invited to submit a brief critique of a topical public sector issue to elicit debate on public administration and public management. In the current issue **Ms Barbara Creecy**, MEC for Education in the Gauteng Province of South Africa addresses the challenges facing education in the Province and the provincial government's efforts to achieve better outcomes by improving the quality of education.

J.O. Kuye
Chief Editor

