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# Editorial

Various African countries have experienced periods of internal turmoil following the *Arab spring* of 2012. In most cases it involved an opposition to the existing government due to an apparent lack of transformation to a more democratically based governance model. The unrest that followed should serve as a wake up call for other African countries that leaders and their governments can no longer rely on the power of their armies or police forces to ensure that their populations obey the laws irrespective of their implications for human rights and freedom.

South Africa has succeeded in retaining its democratic form of government by keeping to its free and fair general and local government elections since 1994. Major improvements have been made towards the development of the concept of governance and the increase in consultation with communities in decision making and in giving effect to policies. However, danger signs do appear as the so-called Gauteng toll road saga illustrates. This serves as an example that policies may be adopted after consultation, but if the full consequences are not properly communicated the execution thereof could be thwarted. A similar situation developed with the youth policy adopted by Government in 2009, but not yet implemented due to opposition by some of the alliance partners.

It is imperative for Government to practise governance. This requires government as well as appointed public servants to acknowledge the imperative of taking affected communities along all the way from conceptualisation of a policy to implementation. South Africa could still be quoted as an example of an African country intent on improving service delivery and in combating corruption. The unfettered reports of the Auditor-General and the Public Protector bear witness to the principle of public accountability as one of the cornerstones of democracy. However, Government should illustrate its commitment to governance by acting decisively against any perpetrators, irrespective of rank or position. This will guarantee the continuation of democratic government and serve as bench mark for the rest of Africa.

Although one can argue that there is no government in the world today that has been able to fulfil all of the needs of the populace, it is incumbent that systems of governance portray a semblance of continued administrative principles that will foster good governance and reforms.

In this issue nine articles had been selected which cover a wide range of topics related to public affairs. Nemic and Merickova report on their research into contracting/outsourcing in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. This article should serve as a focal point for democratic institutions in the process of good governance. Meyer considers the New Growth Path for South Africa and poses the question as to its relevance for the local sphere of government. Jordaan and Fourie embark on the vexing problem of financial performance management and the more recent views on stewardship as an approach to enhance performance. Kakumba explains in his article the policy and institutional mechanisms to address climate change and its effects on human development in Uganda. Kuye and Peet address the question of public-private partnerships as drivers for strengthening the Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa. This article provides a shift in the thinking of various approaches governments can utilise in their attempts to revitalise a partnership that is sustainable. Brynard's article touches the very essence of the work environment of the public servant by considering the

right to lawful administrative action from a public administrative perspective. Lues proposes in her article that democracy could be promoted via responsive tertiary public administrative offerings. Pillay, Steyn and Sommerville apply *Earned Value Management* as a mechanism to manage project costs within the South African municipal infrastructure sector. The last article by Nzimakwe focuses on the need for sustainable policies to accelerate service delivery.

**J O Kuye**  
**Chief Editor**

