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Editorial

After protracted negotiations, the different participants agreed to a new constitutional dispensation which paved the way for a democratic South Africa in 1992. The first visible manifestation of the success of the process was the adoption of the interim *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 200 of 1993*. The Act, passed by the former Parliament of the Republic of South Africa facilitated the smooth transfer of power to the Constitutional Assembly to pass the final *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996*. South Africa is now in its 20th year of the momentous interim constitution being passed. The question that should now be addressed is: What has happened in these two decades of democracy? Caution must be noted as all new democracies continue to manifest itself through a "political organic" process. The case for emerging nations calls for patience and due diligence.

The intention is not to evaluate the success (or failure) of government, but to celebrate the fact that South Africa is the only country in Africa which could transfer power without any violence or interruption in service delivery. The country has succeeded in accommodating the young democracy to develop policies to eradicate the injustices of the past. In the first ten years Parliament passed 700 pieces of legislation proving the massive work that had to be done to repeal unjust legislation, carve a new society honouring the Freedom Charter and the Bill of Rights contained in the interim Constitution and incorporated in the Constitution, 1996.

Criticism is to be expected against some policies adopted to rectify unjust policies and practices of the past, but it must be considered that South Africa had to re-establish international relations which were cancelled due to South Africa's isolation under the apartheid regime. South Africa is currently a major role player in the United Nations, the Security Council and other international structures. The country is a prominent participant in peace keeping forces in various African countries. It is again a member of the Commonwealth and has entered the emerging market group of nations: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS). In the past 20 years it became a respected member of SADC and proven its commitment to promote democracy in Africa.

As a developmental state South Africa has developed a long term plan (National Development Plan: vision 2030). South Africa has a stable public service operating within relative clear policy guidelines passed by Cabinet or Parliament and can rely on a participative society to support policy initiatives. It is true that South Africa is experiencing rampant protests from informal settlements demanding better services, but considering the annual increase in state funding to provide houses and services, the commitment to ease the plight of the poor is clear.

South Africa is well on the way to cementing its endeavours to be a highly respected international player, a continental facilitator of repute and a defender of democracy, honouring human rights in all its policies and actions.

In this, the last issue for 2013, articles and research findings were selected to represent some of the most recent approaches to public administration and policies in different countries. Cameron introduces the issue with a well written article on the implications of the demarcation of municipalities on participation and efficiency. Tshiyoyo addresses the

complexities of leadership in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Nhede, working on issues in Zimbabwe attends to the devolution of power (or the lack thereof) in Zimbabwe. Cedras researched policy targeting as a strategy to increase access to higher education in South Africa. This is followed by Holtzhausen's contribution on provisions required in policies to facilitate protection for whistle blowers. True to his calling Van der Waldt interrogates the relevance of the debate on the domain of public administration and public management. Hofisi deals with the decoding of the process evaluation framework in the South African public sector. The co-authored article by Croukamp and Malan consider the quantification and management of political and economic indicators of risk in the context of an electoral contest with a view to 2014. Ile and Makiva present their research findings on social housing intervention strategies in Cape Town. Musingafi, Tempelhoff and Nealer report on their research into the dilemma of obtaining an integrated resource management system for potable water provision in four local authorities in Zimbabwe.

The AJPA continues to grow from strength to strength. We strive to promote intellectual debates in an era of great reforms and public dialogue.

We wish all of our readers the best of the festive seasons.

Chief Editor J O Kuye

