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Mr O Madumo University of Pretoria (Onkgopotse.Madumo@up.ac.za) Tel +27 12 420 5736

PUBLISHER

P O Box 1399
Faerie Glen,
South Africa,
0043
Tel: + 27 12 420 4772/3606/3472/361 5030
Fax: + 27 12 362 5265

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Editorial

The five year term of office of the current government is coming to an end with the elections on 7 May 2014. The President and his Cabinet have initiated a number of policies covering nearly every facet of life of the South African society. These policies had to be implemented by appointed officials in government departments in the national and provincial spheres of government. Some policies also directly affected the local sphere of government and had to be implemented by 278 municipalities. Furthermore, numerous state owned enterprises and public-private entities were required to implement policies. Most of the policies have long term effects e.g. the child grant, the construction of roads, the Gautrain rail link, new teaching methods at schools (CAPS) and the establishment of the School of Government.

The forthcoming elections in May 2014 will require government to either continue with the existing policy framework or may even have to consider a major change in direction. New ministers may be appointed to Cabinet who may want to develop new policies or give a new impetus to existing policies. This may require government departments to revise existing administrative arrangements to cater for the new policy directions. New appointments will probably be made in senior positions in cases where new ministers are appointed. It may be required to abolish some departments or to create new departments to give effect to the new policy directions. Adjustments may be required within the framework of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) according to new priorities and training programmes developed by the School of Government to provide the expertise required by the new policy directives.

Public Administration and Public Management is an elective science. It makes use of various other sciences to study the diverse activities performed in a state. Therefore, the Discipline should take note of the political changes that will probably follow after the election. Note should be taken of the social implications of policies affecting the youth, children and the aged should policies identify new priorities. Technology continues to affect the security of communications. Thus students and scholars of the Discipline should be aware of the administrative and managerial implications of all these factors. The end of one political term and the start of a new political term that are imminent should inspire them to be committed to excellence in writing new appropriate articles, convey new knowledge to students and make a contribution to society to improve the living conditions of South African citizens and everyone else residing here legally.

In this issue contributions are made by Sing on conceptual perspectives on integrity in the public service. This is followed by Nzimakwe and Pillay's article on enhancing service delivery through decentralisation: a South African experience. Fourie in turn analyses the performance of public sector enterprises in the South African economy. This is followed by a combined article by Nel, Raga and Mbanga on the alignment between the strategic performance plans of selected Eastern Cape departments and the Provincial Growth and Development Plan 2004-2014. This contribution is followed by three articles devoted to local government issues. Govender and Reddy write on performance monitoring and evaluation: the eThekweni experience. Meyer and Venter analyse the effectiveness of the local government turn-around strategy: the case of the Fezile Dabi District Municipality. The

last contribution is by Koma and Kuye on the synchronisation of the Integrated Development Plan and Local Economic Development Policy in South African municipalities: a *sine qua non* for growth and development.

We thank all the Contributors in this volume. We also hope that your intellectual space will be shared by all of our readers

J O Kuye
Chief Editor

