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Table of Contents

Editorial	vii
<i>R Cameron</i> Performance management in the South African Department of Labour Smoke and Mirrors?	1
<i>S M Begum</i> Promoting cooperative governance in India The case of protection and promotion of human rights	19
<i>S G Bwengye and C Thornhill</i> Institutional factors influencing the performance of local governments in monitoring the implementation of decentralisation The case of Uganda	30
<i>D Nel</i> Risks and barriers in renewable energy development in South Africa through Independent Power Production	48
<i>N Holtzhausen and L Malan</i> Status of public sector employees The applicability of the Social Dominance Theory as basis for an analysis of social hierarchies	68
<i>E I Ilori and I U Ile</i> Sustainability of small and medium enterprises development The case of the National Directorate of Employment in Akure, Nigeria	80
<i>P Q Radebe, S Vyas-Doorgapersad and W Grobler</i> The impact of a performance management system on service delivery in the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality	92
<i>D Fourie</i> Good governance in Public-Private Partnerships Approaches and applications A South African perspective	106



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Editorial

The *African Journal of Public Affairs* is committed to publish articles of a high standard reflecting the diverse issues the public sector is involved in. The purpose is to expose our national and international readers to different views, different governmental and administrative systems and diverse policies reflecting national, regional and local government. In the current turmoil experienced in various countries across the globe and in particular in Africa, it has become apparent that no governmental system could be exported to another country *toto caelo*. The social, religious, historical, geographical and economic factors require tailor made systems. Unfortunately colonialism has resulted in many African countries simply adapting the systems inherited from the *empires* which governed them before gaining independence. Thus countries like South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Uganda and Ghana followed the Westminster system. Countries like Mozambique and Angola followed the Portuguese basic system of government. While former French colonies like Côte d' Ivoire continued with the French system. Most countries have made some amendments to their governmental systems to cater for the *new African* requirements, but no lasting solution had been found for the particular needs of Africa regarding practising democracy and permanency in the public service to ensure continuity in service provision. Scholars of Public Administration and Management are urged to investigate options to improve the governmental and administrative systems in African (and other) countries which served under colonial powers. Simultaneously governments should recognise the need to utilise the expertise of Public Administration and Management scholars to assist in improving their administrative systems.

In this issue of the journal eight articles are published covering diverse topics of importance to scholars and practioners of public administration and management. Cameron investigates performance management in the South African Department of Labour. He argues that although performance management frameworks exist, various impediments including lack of measuring instruments, performance agreements not being signed, inadequate information technology systems and the lack of strong accountability measures inhibit its successful implementation.

The contribution by Begum considers co-operative governance in India's efforts to protect and promote human rights. He argues that the Supreme Court and the establishment of a Human Rights Cell in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs have contributed significantly to the protection and promotion of human rights in the country.

The institutional factors influencing the performance of local governments in monitoring the implementation of decentralisation in Uganda is the subject of the contribution by Bwengye and Thornhill. The article argues that there are various impediments to the role local governments could play in monitoring decentralisation including institutional factors emanating from the central government's centralisation policy tendencies.

The contribution by Nel focuses on the risks and barriers in renewable energy development in South Africa through independent power production. She argues that policy regarding independent power production should focus more on managing the interface between private and public partners through increased consensus building, greater transparency, enhanced stakeholder management, more effective administration and improved decision making.

The preliminary results of the exploratory investigation into the applicability of the social dominance theory as basis for an analysis of social hierarchies by Holtzhausen and Malan represent a novel approach to the study of human resource issues in the public sector. The article applies the above mentioned theory and argues that status hierarchies should be based on ascribed criteria and not on earned criteria.

Ilori and Ile investigate the sustainability of small and medium enterprise development in Akure which is the capital city of the Ondo state in Nigeria. The researchers present their findings including the deficiencies in the current National Directorate of Employment inhibiting the realisation of the goal to promote small and medium enterprises in Nigeria.

The impact of a performance management system in the City of Johannesburg on service delivery is the essence of Radebe's article. He proposes that a new *convergent model of service delivery-oriented performance management system* should be introduced to counter the current system that creates a silo approach.

Good governance in public-private partnerships is the topic of Fourie's contribution. The focus is on the current dilemmas faced by governments in establishing effective partnerships. He pays particular attention to the vexing question of avoiding the often negative effects of either exclusive public ownership or outright privatisation.

The African Journal of Public Affairs (AJPA) welcomes contributions from not only African countries but also globally with implications and interest on African issues. The AJPA is the vehicle for addressing these issues.

Best wishes.

Jerry O. Kuye
Chief Editor

Chris Thornhill
Editor

