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    - Kamanga, H.J. 1977. Leadership, Governance and Public Policy in Africa. *AJPA* 27(3):1736.
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# Editorial

This volume consists of several important articles with positions on issues of importance to South Africa and the African Continent on governance and policy making. **Makuwira** explores and relates to the use of development donors to legitimise strategic informalisation of governance in Africa, under the guise of creating mechanisms for the multiplicity of actors. The article argues that governance in Africa has been consciously distorted through the logic of development donors. **Mathonsi and Sithole** craft a perspective that highlights the complicating features of having a western-grown democratic system side-by-side with the traditional leadership institution. This article examines the reasons underlying the incompatibility of a western-grown democratic and the traditional leadership systems. The authors postulate that there has been no blending or integration of the two systems; instead, they have merely been allowed to exist parallel to each other, regardless of the legislative and policy framework that were developed to synergise them. Examining Botswana's governance profile, **Mooketsane, Bodilenyane and Motshekwa** tacitly applies this notion of incompatibility through the dichotomous discourse of centralisation vis-à-vis decentralisation. The article examines and analyses Botswana government's decision to centralise primary health services and rural water supplies using theories and concepts of decentralisation that suggests that the latter make for improved delivery and efficacy. **Koene and Mangena** examine the connections between ethics, accountability and democracy. They argue that when these virtues are non-existent, bad governance predominates, which inevitably compromises societal development. This cognitive orientation is taken further by **Ncgobo and Malefane** who argue that internal controls enforce transparency and accountability, adherence to legislative requirements, efficiency and effectiveness as well as responsiveness to the needs of beneficiaries. They examine the general reports of audit outcomes, annual reports and internal audit function reports of the Roodepoort City Theatre (RCT), trading as Joburg Promusica, to corroborate their assumption. Drawing from empirical evaluation of the effects of governance on the degree to which clean audits have been achieved in South African local municipalities, **Motubatse, Ngwakwe and Sebola** expose the locus of the ubiquitous service delivery failures, which they argue are now widespread and apparently intransigent, thereby negating the national goal of an inclusive socioeconomic development. **Masiapato and Wotela** assess the spatial variations of participatory governance for citizen empowerment, largely as a rural-urban dichotomy, wherein the urban elite is accorded favour. As a result, they formulate a sub-national citizen-based participatory governance model that could allow and empower vulnerable communities. **Thebe** considers the importance of political education as a requirement for good governance in South Africa's local government communities. **Mukwarami, Nyirenda and Fakoya** examine the governance of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and return on assets (ROA) among mining firms to determine its role in the socioeconomic empowerment of communities. The article suggests that the tenets of good corporate governance are exemplified in the relationship of CSR and ROA in the selected mining firms, notwithstanding the continued poverty among mining communities. In essence, there is evidence that the construct of governance is steeply infused with the virtues of private rather than public ownership. In another vein, **Mamabolo and Tsheola**

examine the dearth of governance of communal land in order to establish its centrality to the lapse of productivity compared to that contracted to private interests. The article posits that the same long-standing trend that suggests that the political-economy of governance is inherently biased against poor communities. **Chokoe and Meso** demonstrate that whereas the poor are trapped in environments that are degraded and toxic, the better-off are largely concerned with the green wilderness that provides them with spaces for luxury holidaying and adventure. The article argues that in South Africa's urban governance, profit-making and industrial development initiatives are at the detriment of public health. Currently, South Africa is afflicted with higher education crisis of student fees and funding issues. The calls for free higher education have precipitated violent protests. **Sebola** investigates the stakeholder governance aspect of this scenario. The article argues that governance through stakeholder engagement is a complex phenomenon in South Africa's institutions of higher education. **Sibiya** presents another angle to the debate of governance of higher education institutions in South Africa. The article appraises relations between institutional leadership and student organisations, given the current turmoil in the institutions of higher education in South Africa. It points to transformation as the major challenge that impairs relations between leadership structures of the institutional and the student polity. Finally, **Muswede** presents a wide range of factors that arguably underwrite South Africa's higher education institutions' governance crisis. The article highlights overcrowding, infrastructure deficiencies in the form of inadequate accommodation, shortfalls in knowledge resources such as libraries as well as Information and Communication Technology, inequitable access, racial inequality and funding mechanisms as the primary causes of violent student protests. This volume, in overall, attempts to address the issues of leadership, governance and public policy in difficult political times.

**Prof J.O. Kuye**  
**Chief Editor**

## **ERRATUM**

In the article entitled *The role of local government in using social innovation for improved service delivery: A 21<sup>st</sup> century strategy with reference to South Africa*, Vol. 9 No 3, page 70 the name of the first author was omitted. The authors must be as follow: **Biljohn, M.I.M. and Lues, L. University of the Free State**. The omission is regretted.

