

The role of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in the creation of sustainable public and private technical infrastructure for trade facilitation

by

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It is better that we face the problems of Africa as Africa, for our history of being pushed around is an African history, and our strength to stop this is an African strength.

Julius Kambarage Nyerere (1922 – 1999)

ABSTRACT

Greater access to international markets is universally accepted as the solution for many of Africa's problems. Such increased access would theoretically allow African countries the opportunity to develop strong economies. Sustainable growth through trade would then replace the current common dependence on aid and enable African citizens to enjoy a fuller share of the myriad benefits of globalisation. The gradual global reduction in historic methods to protect markets aspects, such as tariffs, is bringing technical requirements to the fore. These requirements often become Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs) between Africa and its trading partners. Simultaneously, there are continuous global demands for greater access to African markets. Such demands occur even as ever more stringent technical requirements for granting reciprocal access in developed markets are set. Such technical access requirements are insidiously becoming an increasingly important part of the African trading landscape.

African governments increasingly need therefore to ensure that domestic industry and agriculture have appropriate and affordable access to appropriate technical support infrastructure. The current African approaches to such generally unexpected technical challenges from elsewhere, are mostly reactive donor-driven projects managed as crises. In order to address such issues proactively, a vital first step is the formulation of a mutually supportive set of national, or preferably regional, policies and associated strategies to synergistically address African issues of trade, industrialisation, agriculture and the environment. The prevalent silo approach that exists both within and among African countries in these increasingly interlinking areas unfortunately simply exacerbates an already desperate situation.

The predominant focus of NEPAD presently revolves around demonstrating appropriate governance. Rather than continuing to be victims of globalisation, African states working cooperatively through NEPAD have an opportunity to redress their past difficulties. In the area of African Standards, Quality assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM) capacitation, NEPAD has an important leadership role to play. It could provide a foundation through which

solutions in SQAM be cooperatively sought and addressed. Aspects relating to proving compliance to the aforementioned agricultural, industrial and environmental policies need immediate attention. An African, public administration led approach to building SQAM technical capacity would then be possible.

Complying with the various and technically challenging regulatory requirements of foreign markets cannot continue be the sole thrust of Africa's trade facilitation efforts. Implementing foreign technical solutions that make sense in a limited and different context will not deliver large scale benefits for Africa. NEPAD fostered partnerships based on mutually beneficial and optimal solutions are preferable. Such a proposed role for NEPAD includes the creation of sound theoretical public administration underpinning and successful operational facilitation for African public administrators working in concert on mutually beneficial technical SQAM support strategies.

DECLARATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I declare that this dissertation is a product of my own efforts and I have listed references to the other sources that I have quoted.

SIGNATURE

I would like to acknowledge the contribution and support of all the people who in some way assisted me in completing the research study. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the contributions from, and thank, the following people:

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DEDICATION

To my soul mate and loving wife, Dorothy, without whose constant support and encouragement none of this would have been possible.



CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1

General Introduction

1.1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.2	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND TRADE FACILITATION.....	3
1.3	GLOBALISATION, AFRICA AND AFRICAN TRADE.....	7
1.4	THE NEED FOR AFRICAN STATES TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN SUPPORTIVE TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO ASSIST IN GREATER MARKET LIBERALISATION.....	12
1.5	THE ROLE OF AFRICAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.....	14
1.6	THE COORDINATION OF AFRICAN TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AS PART OF NEPAD.....	18
1.7	CHAPTER SUMMARY.....	19

CHAPTER 2

Research Methodology

2.1	INTRODUCTION.....	20
2.2	RESEARCH IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.....	21
2.2.1	The legal historical approach to the study of public administration.....	22
2.2.2	The structural descriptive approach to the study of public administration.....	23
2.2.3	The behavioural approach to the study of public administration.....	24
2.3	APPROACHES TO POLICY EVALUATION IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.....	25
2.3.1	The rational–comprehensive model for policy content analysis.....	25

2.3.2	The incremental model for policy content analysis.....	27
2.3.3	The mixed scanning model for policy content analysis.....	28
2.3.4	The garbage can approach to policy content analysis.....	28
2.3.5	The institutional model for analysing the policy-making process.....	29
2.3.6	The group model for analysing the policy-making process.....	29
2.3.7	The systems model for analysing the policy-making process....	30
2.3.8	The elite model for analysing the policy-making process.....	30
2.4	THEORIES, CONCEPTS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DATA.....	31
2.4.1	Theories.....	31
2.4.2	Concepts.....	32
2.4.3	Primary data and Secondary data.....	32
2.5	STRATEGIC APPROACHES TO RESEARCH.....	33
2.5.1	Positivistic or quantitative research.....	34
2.5.2	Phenomenological or qualitative research.....	34
2.5.3	Exploratory studies.....	35
2.5.4	Descriptive studies.....	36
2.5.5	Explanatory studies.....	36
2.6	RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES.....	37
2.6.1	Comparative studies.....	37
2.6.2	Case studies.....	38
2.6.3	Cross-sectional studies.....	38
2.6.4	Longitudinal studies.....	39
2.7	THE REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE.....	39
2.8	THE SELECTED RESEARCH APPROACH, METHODS AND DESIGN.....	40



2.9 THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY.....	41
2.10 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES.....	42
2.11 THE RESEARCH QUESTION.....	43
2.12 THE NEED FOR THE STUDY.....	43
2.13 DEFINING CONCEPTS AND CONSTRUCTS.....	44
2.14 LIMITATIONS.....	45
2.15 CHAPTER DELINEATION.....	46

CHAPTER 3

The need for public led interventions in addressing African technical infrastructure capacitation.

Part I

1. GLOBALISATION AND FREE TRADE.....	49
2. THE ROLE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.....	53
3.2.1 Critical issues in public administration.....	53
3.2.2 The evolution of European and American public administration.....	58
3.2.3 A role for public administration and administrators?.....	64
3.2.4 Globalisation, governments and public administration.....	69
3.3 THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN REGULATION AND MARKET LIBERALISATION.....	72
3.3.1 Trade facilitation: The role of the state and its institutions.....	72
3.3.2 Market failure.....	75
3.3.3 Legislative policy.....	78
3.3.4 Administration of policy.....	81
3.3.5 Technical regulations.....	85



3.4	THE ROLE OF STANDARDS AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT.....	91
3.4.1	The role and importance of standards.....	91
3.4.2	The need to prove conformity to standards.....	96
3.4.3	The need to build appropriate capacity.....	101
3.5	PUBLIC VERSUS PRIVATE PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES SUCH AS CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT.....	104
Part II		
3.6	AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES.....	110
3.6.1	The legacy of colonialism.....	110
3.6.2	Structural adjustment programmes (SAPs).....	113
3.6.3	Current Issues.....	115
3.7	CHALLENGES FACING AFRICAN STATES WISHING TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THE GLOBAL TRADING ENVIRONMENT.....	120
3.7.1	International participation.....	120
3.7.2	The role of the public sector.....	121
3.7.3	Access to foreign markets.....	123
3.8	DONOR ACTIVITIES WITHIN AFRICA.....	124
3.9	SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION IN AFRICA.....	128
3.9.1	Problems with closer regional cooperation in Africa.....	128
3.9.2	Need for closer regional integration.....	130
3.10	THE AIMS OF THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD).....	132
3.11	CHAPTER SUMMARY.....	136



CHAPTER 4

Case Study

PART I

4.1	INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.....	139
4.2	SQAM TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOUTH AFRICA.....	140
4.2.1	Background.....	140
4.2.2	South African trade strategy and policy.....	147
4.2.3	South African legislative process.....	149
4.2.4	South African technical infrastructure implementation.....	152
4.2.5	South African standards and technical regulation.....	157
4.2.5.1	The South African Bureau of Standards.....	157
4.2.5.2	Technical regulations.....	160
4.2.6	South African metrology.....	162
4.2.6.1	Measurement traceability.....	162
4.2.6.2	National metrology laboratory (NML) to NMISA.....	164
4.2.6.3	Trade metrology.....	168
4.2.7	South African accreditation.....	171
4.2.7.1	Background to accreditation.....	171
4.2.7.2	Creation and role of SANAS.....	173
4.2.7.3	Accreditation and regulation.....	175
4.2.8	South African conformity assessment.....	178
4.2.9	South African governance and coordination mechanisms.....	181

PART II

4.3	SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC).....	188
4.3.1	History.....	188



4.3.1.1	SADC Summit of Heads of State or Government.....	190
4.3.1.2	SADC Council of ministers.....	190
4.3.1.3	SADC Secretariat.....	190
4.3.2	Trade and SADC.....	191
4.3.2.1	Economic size of SADC.....	191
4.3.2.2	Trade protocol: content and implementation.....	193
4.3.3	SADC technical infrastructure coordination and implementation issues.....	203
4.3.3.1	SADCSTAN standards.....	205
4.3.3.2	SADCMET.....	207
4.3.3.3	SADCMEL.....	208
4.3.3.4	SADCA.....	210
4.3.3.5	SADCAS.....	214
4.3.3.6	SADC conformity assessment activities.....	216
4.3.4	SADC SQAM governance and coordination.....	220
4.3.5	REC SQAM cooperation.....	222
PART III		
4.4	NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD).....	223
4.4.1	The NEPAD problematic: trade within NEPAD.....	233
4.4.2	NEPAD technical infrastructure coordination and implementation issues.....	237
4.4.2.1	NEPAD activity re: technical regulations and standards.....	241
4.4.2.2	NEPAD activity re: metrology.....	248
4.4.2.3	NEPAD activity re: accreditation.....	251
4.4.2.4	NEPAD activity re: conformity assessment activities.....	257
4.5	CHAPTER SUMMARY.....	261

CHAPTER 5

An analysis of the case(s)

5.1	INTRODUCTION.....	265
5.2	AFRICAN STATE RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TRADE.....	266
5.2.1	National trade strategy and policy.....	266
5.2.2	Enabling national legislation.....	271
5.2.3	National technical infrastructure planning and resourcing.....	272
5.2.4	Technical infrastructure administration and implementation.....	275
5.2.5	The role of governance.....	278
5.3	CURRENT SADC ACTIVITY IN TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO ASSIST AFRICAN INTER AND INTRA REGIONAL TRADE.....	280
5.3.1	Standards, NSBs and SADCSTAN.....	280
5.3.2	Metrology, SADC MET and SADC MEL.....	283
5.3.3	Accreditation, SADCA and SADCAS.....	284
5.4	AREAS WHERE SADC TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIVITY IS REQUIRED.....	286
5.4.1	Strategy and trade negotiations.....	286
5.4.2	Technical regulations.....	287
5.4.3	Conformity assessment.....	288
5.5	CURRENT NEPAD MECHANISMS THAT ASSIST ITS REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECS) IN SUSTAINABLE TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY BUILDING.....	289
5.5.1	Standards and ARSO.....	289
5.5.2	Metrology and AFRIMETS.....	290

5.6	AREAS WHERE NEPAD MECHANISMS TO ASSIST ITS RECS ARE CURRENTLY LACKING.....	292
5.6.1	Policy and administration.....	292
5.6.2	Technical regulations.....	293
5.6.3	Private standards.....	293
5.6.4	Accreditation.....	295
5.6.5	Conformity assessment.....	295
5.7	THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE NEPAD IN THE CREATION OF SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TRADE FACILITATION.....	296
5.7.1	African trade strategy and coordination.....	296
5.7.2	The role of African public administration.....	298
5.7.3	An African approach to technical infrastructure capacity and capability.....	299
5.7.4	A representative African voice for SQAM.....	300
5.7.5	Partnerships with donors and sources of SQAM expertise.....	303
5.8	CHAPTER SUMMARY.....	305

CHAPTER 6

Research findings, recommendations and conclusion

6.1	INTRODUCTION.....	307
6.2	RECOMMENDATIONS.....	310
6.3	CONCLUSION.....	324
	List of References.....	329

List of Tables

Table 2.1 Types of research and methodologies.....	33
Table 2.2 Linking research strategy to methodologies.....	37
Table 3.1 Examples of concerns related to private standards.....	95
Table 4.1 Status of legal metrology in SADC member states.....	209

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFRIMETS	Intra–Africa Metrology System
ANC	African National Congress
APLAC	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
APMP	Asia Pacific Metrology Program
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
ARSO	African Regional Organization for Standardization
ASGISA	Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative South Africa
AU	African Union
BBS	Botswana Bureau of Standards
BIPM	<i>Bureau International des Poids et Mesures</i>
BSI	British Standards Institute
CAFMET	African Committee of Metrology
CEMACMET	Metrology cooperation of the <i>Communauté Économique et Monétaire de l’Afrique Centrale</i>
CEN	European Committee for Standardization
CENELEC	European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
CGPM	<i>Conférence General des Poids et Mesures</i>
CIPM	<i>Comiti International des Poids et Mesures</i>
CIPM MRA	Mutual Recognition Arrangement of the CIPM
CMC	Calibration and Measurement Capability
CMT	Committee of Ministers SADC
Codex	<i>Codex Alimentarius</i>
COMESA	Common Market for East and Southern Africa
COTII	Council of Trade and Industry Institutions – South Africa
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
EA	European Accreditation
EAC	East African Community
EAC	European Accreditation of Certification
EAL	European co–operation for the Accreditation of Laboratories
EAMET	Metrology cooperation of the East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States

EFTA	European Free Trade Area
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
EURAMET	European Association of National Metrology Institutes
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FTA	Free Trade Area
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IGR	Inter Governmental Relations
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPAP	Industrial Policy Action Plan – South Africa
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
KCDB	Key Comparison Data Base – CIPM
MAGMET	Metrology cooperation of the <i>al-Mağrib al-Arabī</i>
M&MTEK	Materials and Manufacturing division of the CSIR
MLA	Multi Lateral mutual recognition Arrangement
MNC's	Multi National Corporations
MoA	Memorandum of Agreement
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRA	Mutual Recognition Agreement
NA	Norwegian Accreditation
NAFP	National Accreditation Focal Point – SADCA
NATA	National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia
NCOP	National Council of Provinces South Africa
NCS	National Calibration Service
NEDLAC	National Economic Development and Labour Council
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NIPF	National Industrial Policy Framework
NLA	National Laboratory Accreditation Service
NML	National Metrology Laboratory of South Africa
NMI	National Metrology Institute

NMISA	National Measurement Institute of South Africa
NRCS	National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications
NSB	National Standards Body
NTB	Non–Tariff Barrier
OECD	Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development
OIML	International Organization of Legal Metrology
PAC	Pacific Accreditation Cooperation
PASC	Pacific Area Standards Cooperation
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PMC	Project Management Committee
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PPM	Process and Production Methods
PS	Permanent Secretary
PTB	<i>Physikalisch Technische Bundesanstalt</i>
R&D	Research and Development
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RISDP	Regional Strategic Indicative Development Plan
RMO	Regional Metrology Organisation of the CIPM
SABS	South African Bureau of Standards
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADCC	Southern African Development Coordination Conference
SADCA	SADC Cooperation in Accreditation
SADCAS	SADC Accreditation Service
SADCMEL	SADC Cooperation in Legal Metrology
SADCMET	SADC Cooperation in scientific and industrial metrology
SADCREC	SADC regional economic communities
SADCSTAN	SADC Cooperation in Standards
SAIIA	South African Institute of International Affairs
SANAS	South African National Accreditation System
SAPs	Structural Adjustment Programs
SAQA	South African Qualifications Authority
SDoC	Suppliers Declaration of Conformity

SIDA	Swedish International Development Co–operation Agency
SITCD	SADC Industry and Trade Coordination division
SIM	<i>Sistema Interamericano de Metrologia</i>
SMMEs	Small Medium and Micro Enterprises
SOAMET	<i>Secrétariat Ouest Africain de Métrologie</i>
SOEs	State Owned Enterprises
SOGS	Senior Officials Group on Standardisation and Conformity Assessment Policy of the European Union
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto–Sanitary
SQAM	Standards, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology
SQAMEG	SADC SQAM Expert Group
SRMOs	Sub Regional Metrology Organisations
SSA	Sub–Saharan Africa
TBT	Technical Barrier to Trade
The dti	The South African Department of Trade and Industry
TIFI	Trade, Industry, Investment and Finance Directorate at SADC
TNF	Trade Negotiation Forum
TRCB	Trade Related Capacity Building
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
WECC	Western European Calibration Co-operation
WELAC	Western European Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

NOTE: In terms of spelling conventions, this study has adopted Standard British English but has retained the integrity of Standard American English within quotation marks.