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MANUSCRIPT SPECIFICATIONS

1. The preferred length of articles is about 5000 words.
2. Articles are to be submitted ready for the press: finally edited, stylistically polished and carefully proofread. Readability, fluency of style and clarity of exposition are essential.
3. The article should represent an original contribution to the current knowledge in the subject field AND/OR provide a comprehensive review of the current body of knowledge.
4. The article should contain a relevant and suitable summary (abstract) in English of between 150 and 200 words.
5. The Chief Editor reserves the right to make language alterations as he/she sees fit to accommodate the style and presentation of articles to the house style. Where major changes are necessary, the text may be returned to the author for correction or approval. Copyright is transferred to AJPA on acceptance for publication.
6. Relevant key words should be provided.
7. Composition
   - **Introduction**: a short, concise synopsis of the current knowledge in the field must be provided. The introduction should also serve to provide a rationale for the rest of the article.
   - **Methodology/research process**: an adequate, clear description of the methodology employed and/or the research process followed should be provided.
   - **Discussion**: a comprehensive discussion of the major/primary findings should be provided. The discussion must be relevant in the context of the research methodology/process described in point 6. Furthermore, it should be adequate in terms of the depth and scope.
   - **Conclusion**: conclusions drawn in the article should be appropriate and justifiable in the light of the research process/methodology.
   - **References**: The list of references must contain sources that are recent and relevant to the research described. All sources must be listed alphabetically by authors’ surnames, in the following format:

8. Source references in the text should be in the Harvard style, using the authors surname only, e.g. (Kamanga 1986:234-45).
9. Only genuine footnotes should be used, i.e. notes containing relevant elucidation of the text. Footnotes should be kept to a minimum. Numbered footnotes should appear at the bottom of the page. The position of the note should be indicated in the text in superscript Arabic figures without brackets.
10. Abbreviations and acronyms should be avoided (except where an acronym, e.g. is current parlance). When an acronym is to be used, it must be written in full when used for the first time with the acronym in brackets. e.g. National Council of Provinces (NCOP)
11. Italics should not be over used for emphasis. Latin phrases such as *per se* must be italicised. Words in languages other than that of the manuscript should be given in quotation marks.

12. Statistical and other tables should be labelled. Tables, as well as mathematical or similar symbols and expressions should be kept to a minimum.

13. Diagrams, sketches and graphs must be submitted in print-ready high resolution JPEG format as separate files (i.e. not copied into Word). Each diagram must have a short explanatory label.

14. If applicable, full details of the origin of the article must be provided (e.g. a paper delivered at a congress).

15. Refereeing is always anonymous.

16. Articles will only be refereed if accompanied by a declaration that the text has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere.

17. The author of a published article will receive one free copy of the relevant issue of the journal.

18. Page fees of R200,00 per page are payable by authors.

*Note: Plagiarism is a serious offence and could result in actions against the author.*
The Republic of South Africa is inextricably part of the African diaspora. As such, Government has to take note of the political turmoil in the DRC, Somalia, Kenya, Central African Republic, Nigeria and Egypt. These uprisings and terrorist attacks are symptomatic of tensions among factions within a country, or even factions residing in adjacent countries. South Africa is currently experiencing a relatively stable political situation. But we must recognise that the price of stability is eternal vigilance. The tensions which may exist within the ruling alliance are being contained. However, it should be stated that some occurrences such as the Marikana debacle in South Africa, the strikes that damaged South Africa’s international trading image could result in more job losses. This could lead to more marches turning violent and requiring the state to intervene. It is important for Government to take pre-emptive steps by way of clear policy guidelines and decisive actions to promote the country’s role in the international arena. Furthermore, the BRICS accord also requires Government to become and remain an equal partner in the economic and political actions envisaged. The recent strikes in the Sudan over oil subsidies indicate the complex nature of national economic stability.

The African and international developments pose serious challenges for the public administration of the country. Peace keeping forces have to be deployed. This alone demand extra expenditure, logistics and diplomatic arrangements. Public officials have to be sensitised to this situation to be able to deal with periods of uncertainty as it is not always possible to budget for unknown demands on the fiscus. It is also difficult to predict the effects of African and international occurrences on the leadership in South Africa. Therefore, it is imperative for the public sector to develop systems which could adapt to changed conditions in the shortest possible time. This will tax the administrative and managerial capacity of the senior management cadre to the fullest. South Africa plays a significant role in Africa and could only retain this position if it obtains and maintains a stable well qualified management team in the national, provincial and local spheres of government.

The recent diplomatic dialogue between South Africa and France shows the need for international co-operation in the preservation of viable democracies continentally.

In this issue of the Journal ten articles and one research finding have been selected to illustrate the diversity of issues concerning public administration and its relevance to politics. Lubinga and Van Dijk relate the challenges facing primary education in Uganda. This is followed by Traebert-Cavalini and Fourie considering the complexities of offset agreements in defence procurement. Rakepa and Uys highlight the value of wellness programmes in human resource management. Ababio and Asmah-Andoh devote their article to the organisational dilemma of devolution versus decentralisation in a local government context. Subban and Qwabe then follow with the question of research and knowledge management in South Africa. Thornhill addresses the dilemma of administering the public sector in countries with unstable governments. Banjo examines the leadership crisis under the Fourth Republic of Nigeria after fifty-three years of independence from Britain. On a more political note Cedras and Kuye investigate the complex political environment within which the South African governing alliance has to perform. The next to last article by Mantzaris and Pillar evaluate
Marxist theory in relation to the presence of this phenomenon. The last article by Koma deals with local economic development making use of South Africa and Hungary to illustrate the administrative effects. The last contribution is in the form of Research findings based on research concerning Harare’s potable water supply dilemma.

This issue contains a potpourri of articles and one research finding. The contributions vary considerably, but have one issue in common i.e. the public sector’s diverse character affects the lives of the total population as well as many citizens for other countries finding themselves in Africa or dependent on the country or other countries on the continent. The struggle for intellectual equanimity continues.

J O Kuye
Chief Editor