Editorial note

Edwin Ijeoma

In this inaugural editorial, it is important to note that the new journal, Africa's Public Service Delivery and Performance Review (APSDPR) depicts an important chapter in South Africa's research and development agenda aimed at ushering in some "closing the gap" elements in linking research and theories that would inform decision making in government. The articles in this and subsequent editions of the journal are carefully selected and adjudicated to ensure some level of technical double-blind peer review aimed at improving service delivery at all spheres of government. The journal is envisaged to be a platform where practitioners and theorists, public servants and academics alike would encourage each other, debate on issues and use credible arguments to fashioning out a better and smatter service delivery mechanism aimed at "a better life for all." Authors would be persuaded to ensuring that research findings and policy lessons drawn from their work would be utilized for decision-making in related institutional circumstances.

In this edition, Modeni Sibanda presents a thought-provoking article titled *"Monitoring Customer-focused quality Service Delivery in Local Government: Conceptual Issues and Perspectives for Consideration."* As Thozamile Mle's article in this edition focused on *"Professional and Ethical conduct in the Public sector"* which is one of the identified major drivers of Public service delivery. Ijeoma's article went further to appraise reasons for *"Redeeming financial Pledges for Africa's implementation of the NEPAD initiative."* Nzewi's article looks at *Gender and HIV/AIDS: Exploring men and vulnerability towards effective HIV/AIDS policy interventions in sub-Saharan Africa* with a view to drawing a policy lessons on other implementation variables on the subject. The last article in this edition by Moloto is on strengthening Management system implementation in South African municipalities with strong arguments on how performance may be improved towards a positive delivery level.

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