

Editorial note

Edwin Ijeoma

This second volume of the Africa's Public Service Delivery and Performance Review (APSDPR) Journal starts with an issue that deals with Monitoring and Evaluation as a management tool for policy and decision-making in government; essentially aimed at improving work performance and better service delivery. The journal which has evolved over time is envisaged to cover the length and breadth of the entire academic and Public sector work environment experiences through innovative application of modern management and monitoring and evaluation techniques towards policy formulation, analysis, and implementation in governments and business sectors alike.

The first article in this issue, V. Dlova and O. Nzewi of the University of Fort Hare review developing and institutionalizing supply chain management policies and procedures: *a case of the Eastern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works*. As supply chain management is increasingly topical in government departments and other related institutions, the authors' key recommendations among others is that those involved in the supply chain processes should be fully involved in every facets of the process for better implementation and valued outcomes.

As the second article authored by M.A. Mofolo of the Walter Sisulu University deals with contextualizing the guidelines of contracting organizational development consultants in South African municipalities, the author is also of the opinion that Municipalities are legally bound to implement mechanisms to improving performance which would be primarily situated at the organisational development Unit to enable implementation follow-ups and outcome-based results.

The third text from O. Nzewi and P. Musokeri undertakes a critical review of the oversight role of the office of the Auditor-General in financial accountability of South Africa, the article provides a credible insight on the crucial role of the Office of the Auditor General saddled with its many challenges which the article categorised as both 'internal and external' and they include staff turnover, debt collection, cost of auditing, non-compliance to the legislation, to mention but a few. The article concludes its finding by soliciting for both political and administrative support from relevant government departments and institutions towards ensuring credibility of the Office of the Auditor General in the Eastern Cape.

T.R. Mle of the University of Fort Hare takes a bird's-eye view on the potential benefits of Monitoring and Evaluation as a tool in the South African local government sphere, with a view to advising the sphere on issues of better service delivery which could be attained through applying some reasonable governance procedural measures; for example, appointment of municipal officials without appropriate qualifications. Mle

4 Editorial Note

further outlines some seven management tools that could ensure a credible monitoring and evaluation practice in an average South African local sphere.

D.A. Omemma of Caritas University, Enugu, Nigeria and C. Okafor of the University of Fort Hare, South Africa, assess poverty reduction programme and its implementation in Enugu state, Nigeria. Apart from major profiling of the trends in the poverty mix of Enugu state from 2004 to 2012, the authors further posit the concept of mismanagement and profligacy and other major factors that made the poverty alleviation programme unattainable within the period in review.

As M. Kanyane of the Human Sciences Research Council explores challenges of municipal service delivery in South Africa from 1994 to 2013, he also provides possible propositions for consideration given the myriads of challenges facing the sphere as earlier alluded by TR Mle in his article. Some of the issues for consideration by Kanyane includes among others, the viability of some municipalities, service delivery protest issues, political misunderstandings, lack of accountability that links to corruption and lack of proper planning. In conclusion, the article calls for a “municipal evolution and technical capacity” aimed at an improved service delivery within the South African Municipalities.

In their investigations, K.J. Ani of the Federal University Ndufu-Alike, Ikwo, Nigeria and E.N. Nweke of Ebonyi State University, embark on an exploration of the strategic peace building tools for curbing the increasing growth of kidnapping in Nigeria. As the article x-rays the ills and societal discomfort which is presently being experienced, it concludes that peace building strategies might be an overriding factor in curbing or eliminating kidnapping of individuals or groups in Nigeria.

The eighth and the final article in this edition is the work of K.J. Ani of the Federal University Ndufu-Alike, Ikwo, Nigeria, which presents a historical evaluation of mass media and re-branding Nigeria project. Though the article provides prospects as possible policy recommendation for improving the National image of Nigeria but sums up its argument as another failed government policy.

As the articles are thought provoking issues in modern management with special bias to policy articulation and implementation, it is becoming increasingly obvious that governments and its agencies need to apply reasonable amount of Monitoring and Evaluation tools, techniques and approach as a “must do” management function aimed at public accountability and better service delivery at all level of government.

EOC Ijeoma **Chief Editor**

Africa's Public Service Delivery and Performance Review

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 1 | MARCH 2014

ISSN Print 2310-2195 | ISSN Online 2310-2152

© Independent Service Delivery Monitoring Networks (ISDMN)