

Editorial note

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This edition of Africa's Public Service Delivery and Performance Review (APSDPR) looks at paying deserving tribute to the pioneers of Pan-Africanism project which stemmed from Africa's struggle against colonialism, oppression, slave trade, hard labour and apartheid, which earned downright condemnation by peace and free world loving individuals, countries and institutions alike. It is important to note that the generation of African people and leaders who stood up for African values of selflessness, solidarity and service to the people spearheaded the establishment of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963 shortly after the Pan-African Women Organisation was established in 1962.

The journey to the centenary of the Pan-Africanism project may not be as difficult as the past fifty years of colonialism and apartheid; however, Africans on the continent and their counterparts in the diaspora need to be more committed to the Pan-Africanism ideology as one of the major routes towards Africa's self-realisation, identity and dignity without which Africa may run the risk of continuing to remain a silent partner within the global terrain. The new development agenda 2063 of the African Union Commission provides a progressive growth path towards African Renaissance and Economic integration.

The first work in this edition is the address of President Jacob Zuma during the OAU-AU 50th anniversary lecture hosted by the University of Fort Hare in East London. The President of the African National Congress (ANC) and South Africa used the platform to pay tribute to the founders of the OAU and subsequent African leaders who selflessly kept the "flame" of the continent alive. Zuma compared the Pan-Africanism project vision with that of the article written by the former ANC President Pixley ka Isaka in 1906 titled, *"The Regeneration of Africa."* In his concluding remarks President Zuma reiterated that Africa is a "vital subject matter in the world of today."

The second lecture series is authored by Dr. Mvuyo Tom, Vice Chancellor of the University of Fort Hare. The lecture is titled, *"University of Fort Hare as the Doyen of Pan-Africanism."* Dr Tom's paper questions the fundamental definition of the Pan-

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Africanism project ranging from a geographical space that should be united, to colonial boundaries that should be abolished in order to establish the United States of Africa. The paper further suggests debates on various perspectives that could contribute to taking Africa's development agenda beyond fifty years. Dr. Tom's paper echoed similar sentiments with that of President Zuma around the vision of Pixley ka Isaka Seme as an African leader whose ideology had a continent-wide focus, hence the *"African National Congress and not South African National Congress."* The paper pays glowing tributes to a number of African and Southern African leaders whose work had continental focus and concludes with a reminder that the University of Fort Hare will be having its centenary celebration in 2016 with a view to building its *"own strengths and traditions towards asserting its unique contribution in knowledge production and national development."*

SADC Mediation in Zimbabwe's Global Political Agreement (GPA): A Reflection on Opportunities and Complexities by Mudzamba Sibanda of the Department of Public Administration, University of Fort Hare is a credible evaluation of regional efforts towards solving a global problem. The article articulates that the SADC regional efforts in resolving the Zimbabwe's crisis were moved with delays and secrecy which contravened the widely acclaimed SADC protocols and convention on peace and security.

In an article borne out of an implementation field research titled, *"Foreign Aid to Nigeria and Domestic Obstacles: A study of Anambra State Education sector,"* Chukwumeka of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Okechukwu of Enugu State University of Science and Technology and Okafor Ben-Uchechi also of Nnamdi Azikiwe University jointly investigated the effect of foreign aid on the development of the education sector and recommended practical solutions to ameliorate the societal effects of the identified problems within the sector.

Another article by Maclean Sindisile of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa titled, *"Auditing as an Essential Element of Financial Management and Good Governance in Local Government,"* looks at auditing as a key area of control in business finance wherein its principles and procedures may be applicable towards achieving a clean audit within a local government institutional arrangement.

"Enhancing Public Accountability and Performance in Nigeria: Periscoping the Impediments and Exploring Imperative Measures," by Adejuwon of the Department of Public Administration, Lagos State University, x-rays some nexus of Public accountability

and performance as it relates to public funds management and service delivery, wherein the article concludes that corruption is central to poor service delivery in Nigeria.

In another development from Asia, Siwach and Nillam both of the Department of Public Administration, Ch. Devi Lal University, Sirsa (Haryana) India contributed the article titled *"Good City Governance in India: A Case Study of Municipal Council SIRSA of HARYANA Province."* The article provides realistic indicators for good city governance, ranging from people's participation, rule of law and public order, openness and transparency, devolution of powers to mass awareness among citizens.

The concluding article in this edition titled, *"National Youth Service Corps Programmes and Growing Security Threats in Nigeria,"* authored by Okafor and Ani of the University of Fort Hare and Federal University, Ndufu-Aliko respectively, provides an insight into the security challenges of the youth development programme which started in Nigeria since 1973, as young graduates participating in the national service programme are recurrently threatened by religious extremism and ethnic intolerance as a result of geographical and political factors.

The high-level lectures by President Zuma and Dr. Tom summed up some reflections and guidance on the status of Africa within the global configuration, while the articles provide empirical explanations on Public policy monitoring and administrative efforts and the wide-ranging dilemmas facing the developing world.

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