

Editorial note

Edwin Ijeoma

The first edition of the third volume of the Africa's Public Service Delivery and Performance Review could not have come at a better time. It heralds the launch of the International Evaluation Year in South Africa. The launch was performed on the 18th of March 2015 by Minister in the Presidency in charge of the Department of Planning, Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr. Jeff Radebe, at an event hosted by CLEAR at Wits School of Governance. It also came during the 15th Annual Conference of the South African Association of Public Administration and Management, titled *"Half a Century of Disciplinary Existence, Antecedents, Evolution, Scholarship, Trends and Issues."* The question thus arises: Will South Africa and other countries in the continent make a turnaround within the Public Service delivery and performance environment within the short life span of the present volume of the journal, especially given consideration on issues that will improve public work place performance and ultimate better and timely service delivery in communities?

In the current edition, the first article by Botlhale EK of the University of Botswana titled, *"Monitoring and Evaluating Government Performance in Botswana"* provides a comprehensive chronology of scholarly text on the Monitoring and Evaluation practice in that country and recommends how it could improve service delivery if applied appropriately. The second article, *"A Descriptive Analysis of the Eastern Cape School Indicators"* authored by Ncanywa T of the Department of Economics, University of Fort Hare x-rays some of the impediments encumbering schools performance in that part of the Republic of South Africa. The article does not only prescribe appropriate indicators for improving schools performance, but also draws critical analysis on how those improvements can be achieved.

The third article by Hlakudi John Nkwananchi of the Gauteng Provincial Treasury titled, *"The Implementation of Preferential Procurement Policy in Gauteng Province, Challenges and Solutions"* provides a new guide towards achieving a better procurement policy in Gauteng province in particular and South Africa in general. The article also

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provides some far reaching contributions among which are some beneficiations that could eliminate the economic backwardness of the unemployed black majority.

The fourth article titled *"Culture and Its Role in Promoting Democracy and Good Governance in Africa: Finding the Missing Link"* is co-authored by Igbokwe-Ibeto CJ, Ewuim Ngozi and Agbodike Florence of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Nigeria. The authors assert that "critical evaluation of African cultural values and governance has shown that aspects of chieftaincy and traditional governance, coupled with some principal indigenous values are very much in accord with the basic tenets of modern democratic governance."

The fifth and final article in this edition authored by Dibia Robert of Indiana University Kokomo, USA and Okere Justina of the Babcock University, Nigeria, is titled *"Government and NGOs Performance with Respect to Women Empowerment in Nigeria."* The article examines the role of women in the present and future configuration of Nigeria's public policy that provide better opportunities for education of women, aimed at their economic empowerment in all strata of the Nigerian society.

EOC Ijeoma
Chief Editor

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