

# Editorial note

*Edwin Ijeoma*

In the inaugural and several editions of the *Africa's Public Service Delivery and Performance Review* (APSDPR) journal, we have consulted our colleagues, members of the Editorial Board of Networks and other related individuals alike on suggestions and comments that will provide informed changes towards improving the new journal on its pursuit to remain internationally competitive with local relevance. That has been achieved in its terms and purpose towards ensuring the required rigour in scholarship and practice especially in dealing with myriads of service delivery challenges facing South Africa and its global allies in Africa's developmental agenda.

In the first article in this edition, Sello S and Ntsako M, examines local governance service delivery issues during apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa, with emphasis on the observed generic differences in style of government apparatus and the scope of service recipients on each dispensation.

The second article by Ntsikelelo B, Mekao I, and Maphazi N, addresses Participatory Democracy in Theory and Practice by providing a case study of Local government in South Africa with some outstanding findings for relevant policy makers.

The third article by Okafor C, Matiwane S, and Onuigbo RA, examines municipal councillors' oversight roles in Alfred Nzo District Municipality of the Eastern Cape, South Africa. The study offers suggestions for enhanced performance in the municipality in review.

Critical Analysis of the Oversight Role of the Education Portfolio Committee in Parliament of South Africa is the fourth article in this edition. The piece is authored by Manona WW of Stellenbosch University, wherein gaps on procedural issues and challenges facing the institution are duly addressed, and several recommendations aimed at ameliorating the identified gaps and challenges, appropriately made.

The fifth article by Afegbua SI and Ejalonibu GL describes and explains emerging issues in public sector reforms in Africa. The article discerns three phases of public sector reforms in Africa and provides some policy lessons emanating from assessments of Ghana and Nigeria.

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The sixth article in this edition, co-authored by Okarah AC and Ndaguba EA assesses the implementation of the Deregulation Policy of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) from 2003 to 2012 with emphases on government control within the policy. The article calls for more private and public involvement in the sector for better benefitions for the general public.

Further, the seventh article by Fatile JA, Olojede I, and David AK, beams a spotlight on Indonesia and Nigeria perspectives of Techno-bureaucratic Governance and Public Service Delivery, while the eighth and the last article in this edition by Ukanwah CH and Ndaguba EA explores the place of Human resources Management in achieving competitive advantage in Nigerian Public organizations under the global economy.

It is important to note that this great endeavour as being established by the articles published in the APS DPR journal requires efforts from authors and readerships alike towards consistent exploration of innovative ideas that will contribute immensely to shaping better approaches in performance improvement and service delivery by governments and other agencies of the state.

**EOC Ijeoma**  
**Chief Editor**

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