

Editorial note

Edwin Ijeoma

This edition marks the end of the third volume and heralds the fourth volume as well as the two (2) special editions in commemoration of the Centenary of the University of Fort Hare. As the sponsor and host of the African Public Service Delivery and Performance Review (APSDPR), the University in its centenary year, reflects the credibility and pedigree in knowledge generation which is one of the goals of this journal. Presently, the journal is enjoying wider global readership within its niche area and beyond.

The first article in this edition by Jiboku, P of the University of KwaZulu-Natal is titled, "The challenges of Regional Economic Integration in Africa: Theory and Reality." In an assessment of regional economic integration in Africa, the paper argues that the coalition of willing politicians has dominated African governance space for too long, where Heads of States and governments act quickly and decisively on commitment to African Union treaties and protocols but flaunt these agreements when faced with realities emanating from either national or regional observance of those treaties.

The second article by Ndhlovu, N of the Nelson Mandela School of Law at the University of Fort Hare is titled, "The role of the courts in the enforcement of socio-economic rights under the 2013 constitution of Zimbabwe." As a critical appraisal on the role of the courts in socio-economic rights enforcement, the article provides some remedial framework for crafting judicial remedies for violations of socio-economic rights in Zimbabwe.

The third article by Legodi K and Kanjere M, both from the University of Limpopo provides a spotlight into "The Challenges faced by Informal Traders in Greater Letaba Municipality in Limpopo Province, South Africa." The study observes that the identified challenges were structural and inherent to the business models adopted for its operations; however, credible recommendations provided policy lessons for the Limpopo Province in particular and South Africa and the world in general.

The fourth article by Igbokwe-Ibeto CJ of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Osakede KO of the Babcock University Ilishan-Remo and Anazodo RO of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, all in Nigeria, provides an applied research study titled, "The Effect of Manpower

4 Africa's Public Service Delivery & Performance Review

Planning and Development in Lagos State (Nigeria) Civil Service Performance." The New Public Management (NPM) theory underpins the study with emphases on the need for government to operate the most efficient and effective organization that would be beneficial to all especially the much needed manpower planning and curriculum development.

The fifth article by Manona, W of the Stellenbosch University is an "Empirical Assessment of the Implications of the Merger at Walter Sisulu University, South Africa." The study argues that the merger has negative implications for University employees, such as low morale and decreased productivity.

Marutlulle NK and Ijeoma EOC of the University of Fort Hare co-authored the sixth article which re-examines the "Obstacles to Housing Delivery in Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality." In a critical review of output and input, the article x-rays several challenges of filling the backlogs of the housing legacy of apartheid government and urbanization of the Municipality as the events in the townships have demonstrated that inadequate housing and urban resources militate against the existence of stable urban communities.

Finally, the seventh article by Manona W of the Stellenbosch University is "An Empirical Assessment of Dropout Rate of Learners at selected Schools in King William's Town, South Africa." The article investigates factors responsible for high dropout rate of learners at selected high schools in King William's Town District, Province of the Eastern Cape of South Africa. As the research considers several challenges and dilemmas facing the learners and government, it concludes that various factors do indeed contribute to dropout rate of learners, these include the learner's background, condition of living and family lifestyles to mention but a few.

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