

EDITORIAL

As the outgoing Editor, I thank all the role players, especially the Editorial Committee and peer reviewers, who have contributed immensely to the success of our *Journal*. Much as I enjoyed editing and managing this journal, the task was not as an easy one – therefore, I appreciate the assistance offered by Mrs Martha Mashamaite, who voluntarily and without receiving any acknowledgement, has assisted with the recording of minutes and other administrative tasks. I also wish Thabisi Hoeane, the incoming Editor, well during his term. Four articles that have been selected for publication in this issue are briefly introduced in the following paragraphs.

The first article was authored by Oluwaseun Tella and is entitled ‘*Polarity in Contemporary International Politics: A Uni-interpolar Order?*’ In this article, Tella argues that the structure of power in the international system generates enormous interest amongst scholars, some of which perceive it as unipolar. This is premised on the notion that the United States (US) is the only state with preponderance in all components of power – military, economic, technological and cultural. Contrarily, other scholars’ view global politics through a multipolar lens, which, unlike the proponents of unipolarity, posit that the US has lost its primacy in the global arena, and that new competing players have emerged. In addition, many scholars posit that the structure of power in international system has become sophisticated and complex that traditional models such as unipolarity, bipolarity and multipolarity are insufficient to explain the reality in contemporary international realpolitik. Using both primary and secondary data, this article explores the structure of power in contemporary international politics. It determines whether or not existing models adequately explain the dynamics of such politics. The article concludes by asserting that uni-interpolarity, a hybrid of uni-multipolarity and interpolarity, best explains the features of today’s global politics.

The second article, which is also from political science, was authored by Pieter Labuschagne and is entitled ‘*Development, politics and the feasibility of hosting the Olympic Games in Africa*’. As Labuschagne contends in this article, staging the Olympic Games offers a hosting nation and city an instant and unparalleled access to global prestige and international recognition. The host city, as he persists, is not only rewarded with prestige but, substantial financial benefits. Apart from Africa, all the

continents of the world have already had the opportunity to host the Olympic Games. However, the host cities were without exception situated in developed countries that could absorb the substantial costs that staging the Olympic Games require. This article explores the feasibility and desirability of hosting the Olympic Games in an African city from a developmental perspective and responds to the question '*Is the staging of the Olympic Games justifiable in the light of the Africa's developmental problems?*' It assesses that developed countries, as opposed to African countries, have a competitive advantage to host the Olympic Games in that they have well-built infrastructure, diversified industries and accommodation facilities. Based on this disadvantage, it would therefore be beneficial for African countries to aim at tournaments such as the Commonwealth Games and the Rugby World Cup than a commitment to a mega-sport event with a magnitude of the Olympic Games. African countries should not stage the Olympic Games in that their capitalist nature makes them very difficult to address developmental goals.

The third article is entitled *South Africa's soft power: A comparative content analysis*, and was authored by Olusola Ogunnubi. The discussions in this article centre around the history of South Africa's foreign policy literature, Nye's idea of soft power and South Africa's soft power literature in a comparative context. The article adopts a qualitative research method, which is based on extensive literature review, and concludes that there is a need for an in-depth research on and awareness about the role of the state and non-state agents of South Africa's soft power. If South Africa is to progress beyond the mere possession of soft power resources, a strategic vision is required on the part of both state and non-state actors to build a solid strategy to project its power of attraction. It is crucial that a wide spectrum of actors, including policy makers, politicians, civil society interest groups and academics understand how these subtle instruments of power impact on South Africa's global political-economic influence. South Africa needs to go beyond China's example, where soft power is coordinated and directed by the state by promoting a symbiotic relationship through public-private partnerships and non-state actors. This would enable the country to communicate its soft power in an effective manner. According to Ogunnubi, further research needs to be conducted on issues such as the role of soft power in achieving South Africa's foreign policy goals, the evolution and influence of South Africa's soft power in Africa and the agents, sources and communicative instruments for disseminating soft power.

The fourth and last article was authored by Ernst Van der Westhuizen and is entitled *Democratisation of employment in the public sector: A constitutional perspective grounded in the interpretation of litigated cases between 1996 and 2013*. This article may attract the interest of academics and practitioners from public human resource management, a component of the discipline Public Administration. Notably, this article reflects on the literature review of democratic public administration, which is divided into three subtopics, i.e. (1) democracy and the bureaucratic values

and principles of public administration, (2) drift in scholarship towards democratic constitutionalism and (3) the democratic ethos that emerge from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996). The article uses a qualitative research method through which the cases that were litigated between 1996 and 2013 are interpreted.