

**Shepherd Malefane**

---

The Editorial Committee of the *South African Journal for Political Science and Public Administration (Politeia)* had at its first meeting of the 2014 academic year resolved to publish the third issues of both 2014 and 2015 academic years as special issues, and each will be compiled by a guest editor. The 2014 Special Issue will focus on the roles played by election management bodies (EMBs) in the African continent and as such will cover selected countries at which such bodies have played meaningful roles in managing elections freely and fairly. The Special Issue of 2015, for which manuscripts will be invited from scholars in the disciplines covered by the journal, political science and public administration, will focus primarily on “the Presidency in South Africa”. Because there is still time available to prepare manuscripts for this issue, authors in these disciplines are encouraged to conduct research on this topic, especially on how the Presidency (as an institution) has evolved over time. The articles that have been selected for publication in this issue focus on stimulating topics that have received intense media coverage both in South Africa and the African continent.

The first article, which has been authored by Rialize Ferreira, is about South Africa’s participation in the Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) peacekeeping missions. South Africa’s participation in peacekeeping missions is indicative of its support for the African Union’s (AU) doctrine of “African solutions for African problems” and is in line with foreign policy regulations and human security principles. However, the roles and functions the SANDF plays in missions are debatable when government expectations are not met due to limitations in training, logistics and funding. Unclear objectives lead to indecision, while military readiness determined by political and strategic levels should include sufficient budgets without which military duties cannot be performed. In the disastrous CAR mission a unilateral memorandum of understanding or a government-to-government pact was signed by Presidents Bosizé and Zuma with neither a UN/AU mandate, nor any Parliamentary oversight and public support usually required in democracies. In the DRC the Forces Intervention Brigade (FIB) was granted an unprecedented offensive mandate by the UN for South Africa, Tanzania and Malawi to do “partnership peacekeeping” to conduct targeted offensive operations and

neutralise an entrenched enemy, the M23 rebel group in eastern DRC. It is clear that the nature of African peace missions has changed, and that lessons learned from conventional attacks in the CAR and DRC have to be heeded; and that the South African government acknowledges that its defence capabilities struggle to keep up to standard, while delusions of grandeur do not serve ill-equipped peace missions.

The second article engages on deliberative democracy as a project whose aim is to refocus the minds of South Africans concerning the core of South Africa's democratic appreciation. Deliberative democracy, as argued by Gerhard Wolmarans, builds on a view of democracy as an expression of trust in the capacity of individual citizens to meaningfully engage with one another within the public space. Such an interaction between citizens raises questions as to the possibility of individual citizens being able to hear one another across the intersubjective divide. In this article the Gerhared Wolmarans explores the issue of such an interpretation with two goals in mind—firstly to highlight the importance and complexity of the interpersonal interpretation involved in deliberation in a democratic context by drawing on insights from literature; and secondly to explore an interpretive stance that would fit the democratic ideal. With the latter, he specifically considers the ideas of two literary theorists C.S. Lewis and Mikhail Bakhtin as to what constitutes a 'good reading' of a text or person. These insights he then applies to a democratic setting.

The third article, authored by Kedibone Phago, contributes to the knowledge on a poorly researched area, intergovernmental relations (IGR) and housing policy implementation in South Africa. This article is essentially a critique on how the different spheres of government in South Africa operationalise housing policy. A central question that this article poses is whether existing IGR frameworks accommodates housing policy implementation in South Africa. While he regards the implementation of housing policy as a necessity for municipalities, in his view, a consideration on the municipal accreditation is not a viable option because it may perpetuate a condition in which a centralised housing policy implementation approach is maintained. This approach according to him is not empowering to weaker municipalities. He asserts that the creation of an empowering housing policy implementation approach for municipalities is necessary to support a proper implementation, which subsequently would require a Constitutional amendment to be effected.

The fourth article, authored by Jo-Ansie Van Wyk, is entitled *Electoral authoritarianism and democratisation in Africa: The role of the African Union*. In this article, the author argues that the democratic gains made in Africa have one unintended consequence, namely that, in some instances, contributes to electoral authoritarianism. This phenomenon which refers to some African leaders' use of the procedural aspects of democracy to entrench their power has resulted in the

undermining of the substantive aspects of democracy. These elites' use of various linkages benefit their grip on power; a position that the African Union (AU), at least on paper, attempts to undo. However, the AU as the continental custodian of democracy, in selected cases, has failed to achieve.

The fifth article is about the chieftainship in Lesotho, and the author Motlamelle A. Kapa poses a question whether the chieftainship should be abolished or retained. Using Lesotho's context, this article contributes to chieftainship-procedural democracy debate. The key question explored is whether, given its hereditary nature, the chieftainship is still relevant under systems based on the elective principle or whether it should be abolished. The article finds that the chieftainship still enjoys large degree of legitimacy from Lesotho's politicians and academics and its relevance to the country's political system, even after the advent of elected councils, remains unquestionable. The government, therefore, has to find an appropriate model of integrating the chieftainship with and not into the elected councils. This can be based either on regulated dualism/parallel or subordination model.