

Public Policy Transformations In Africa

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Dedication

To Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela for his assiduous, selflessness and personal sacrifice to see a free African continent.

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We cannot express enough thanks to our families who have been our inspiration and motivation to continue to quench our thirst for knowledge and move our academic careers forward and for having been patient with us during the countless moments we put into the editing and shaping up the manuscript. Last, but definitely not least, we are indebted to Mihaela Ioana Danetiu and Sébastien Garciaz for their kind assistance with the editing and publication process. The views expressed in the articles are not in any way those of editors and the contributors take full responsibility for any errors and omissions inherent in their individual chapters comprising this book.

***Joseph Misati Akuma, Enna Sukutai Gudhlanga
and Ezekiel Mbitha Mwendwa***

Pau, France
December, 2015

Foreword

Public Policy Transformations in Africa: Trends, Challenges and the Future is a book handling a number of challenges affecting development in Africa that the writers have observed in the respective African states they explore. Though the writers are dealing with issues in their respective states, the similarities in the challenges highlighted are striking. The book provides an informative interdisciplinary study of the socio-cultural and economic landscape of the African states the writers explored. It expertly tackles the seemingly inseparable pair of Africa and suffering through the yoke of poverty. The degree of research that was undertaken by the writers is impressive. This enabled them to engage in original discussions of important topics in matters to do with African development which among other things include; natural resource management, agriculture, governance, decentralisation, education, youth and gender mainstreaming. The writers' interrogation of policy and practice reveals in some cases, gaps and mismatches inherent between policy and practice. In handling these challenges, the writers have re-engaged some old and familiar debates and at the same time framed new ones that enrich the discourse of development in Africa. They lay bare shortfalls of foreign solutions and at the same time do not over-glorify indigenous knowledge systems or home grown solutions for their sake, but they thoroughly evaluate the home grown solutions suggested for their merits and demerits. The scholars have demonstrated why Africa, a continent endowed with numerous natural resources such as mineral wealth, rich soils, tourists' resorts and manpower remains poor economically and a third world. They strongly feel that this is mainly because Africa has no faith in herself as a continent and if this scenario is not attended to, she will continue to be poorer despite several years or decades in most cases after attainment of political independence. They go on to suggest that, in order for the continent to leapfrog into the 22nd century, she needs to have a paradigm shift whereby she looks at home grown solutions which are owned and understood by the people concerned. This is the public transformation the book unambiguously stresses with appropriate supporting evidence discussed by the various writers.

On the whole the book is a welcome boon to students and scholars of African studies. Policy makers will also find it a valuable gift since it provides informative evaluations of their policies as well. General readers are also going to find the book readable.

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