

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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The authors would like to thank individuals and organizations that took time to help us in one way or the other throughout the writing of this book. First and foremost, we'd like to give special thanks to OSSREA, the organization that organized a gender mainstreaming workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in December, 2007. The meeting laid the foundation for several collaborative research projects among the authors of this publication. Thanks to Olivier Provini, our friend and colleague at the Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour, France, who played a crucial role in providing insights into the contents and organization of the book. The completion of this project could not have been realized without the support of the team of contributors that provided the perfect blend of knowledge and skills that went into the writing of this book. We thank each and every one of them for devoting their valuable time and efforts towards the realization of the book. We would like to express our gratitude to Prof. Christian Thibon for his relentless support, academic nourishment, mentorship and encouragement and Prof. Shumirai Nyota for accepting to write the foreword.

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 its place 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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