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## Sustainable Development, Good Governance, Regulation and Policy Implementation Issues in Selected African Countries

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**Editor's Introduction**

# **Sustainable Development, Good Governance, Regulation and Policy Implementation Issues in Selected African Countries**

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**T**he *African Social Science Review* begins the 2021 Fall issue of volume eleven with interesting topics on issues such as meritocracy conundrum in Sub-Saharan Africa, good governance, promotion of rural food security during COVID-19 pandemic, policy implementation and illegal mining. The five articles published in this volume underscore why the *Review's* prides itself as the African journal of social science, public and international affairs.

The first article, "The Meritocracy Conundrum in Sub-Saharan Africa," by Nicholas Alozie, discusses the confusion and problem inherent in the selection and promotion of people into influential positions based on their knowledge, skills and abilities in terms of merit. Using three dimensions of meritocracy—mass orientation, contemporary status, and the factors that explain inter-personal differences—the article finds that despite variations within individuals and across nations, mass orientation strongly stands out in explaining away people's understanding of the situation. The article concludes that the challenge facing Sub-Saharan African countries depends on their abilities to deter strong competing anti-meritocracy forces from destroying the basic principles of the merit system in achieving efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of public services.

In the second article, "Promoting Good Governance Using ICTs in Nigerian," Augustine Eneanya examines the utilization of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in promoting good governance through a qualitative research design. While the article finds that various types of ICTs have been used to promote good governance, there certainly exists key major challenges, such as poor-quality infrastructure, lack of stable electric power supply, internet access, cyber security, institutional capacity as well as commitment by the political leaders.

Xolisile Ngumbela in the third article, "The Effect of COVID-19 on Rural Food Security: A Case Study of Sheshegu in the Eastern Cape, South Africa," explores the impact of COVID-19 on households' food safety. Using a national cross-case analysis, Ngumbela finds that there is a need for sustainable empowerment of households in skill acquisition training to enable them to engage in small scale home gardening to increase their level of income generation due to the correlation between the effect of COVID-19 and their previous economic condition, which lead to high degree of dependency on the public welfare services. Since the COVID-19 is a global phenomenon, the author concludes by recommending ways to address the crisis because of the new opportunities it provided for problem solving solutions in South Africa.

In the fourth article, "Empowerment and National Fisheries Policy Implementation in Uganda," Joshua Mugambwa and his colleagues used a cross-sectional narrative design anchored with a structural employment theory advanced by Rosabeth Moss Kanter in 1977 to explicate

Ugandan national fisheries policy implementation. The authors discovered that the enforcement agency, the Uganda Peoples Defense Forces, deployed coercion, domination and authoritarianism in its enforcement of the policy, and conclude by recommending the Kantian empowerment doctrine as a remedy to the problems in the existing implantation process.

In the fifth and final article, “Illegal Small-Scale Mining in Asutifi North District, Ghana: Traditional Authority’s Tacit Support for Illegality,” Emmanuel Tenkorang deployed a mixed method of analysis (focus groups, interviews and secondary data) informed by an institutional theory to examine the perennial problem of illegal mining with strong traditional practices. The study finds that traditional authorities performed rites that encourages illegal small-scale mining and concludes that an appropriate remedy to the problem can be achieved through the delegation of some aspects of decision making of mineralized land to traditional institutions.

In conclusion, my appreciation goes to the reviewers for their professional service, and contributors for considering the *African Social Science Review* as an outlet for the publication. As always, thanks to the editorial team for their efforts in producing the Fall 2021 edition.