The African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM)

In Collaboration with

Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA)
South Africa;

School of Public Management and Administration (SPMA);

African Local Governments Academy (ALGA) of the United Cities and
Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-Africa)

5th Edition Seminar on
Strengthening Research Capacities and Capabilities for
Attainment of the Global Agenda 2030 and
African Union Agenda 2063

Date: 26th to 28th August 2020

Venue: University of the Western Cape, Bellville, South Africa
SEMINAR OVERVIEW

In order for Africa to thrive, research must be integrated continuously as a key lever for the progress, the growth, and sustainable development. Among many developmental solutions cited to deal with the challenges facing Africa, research doesn't often rise to the top of the discussions as it has been overlooked. Evidence alludes to the fact that the average sub-Saharan Africa government spends less than 0.5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on backing research.¹

Statistics show that there are not enough resources that are available for research and innovation in Africa. Most obviously, funding for research in Africa is shockingly low as: only 1.3% of the money spent globally on research and development is spent in Africa. This shortage of investment is both a cause and effect of other resource constraints. For example, the proportion of researchers in the African population is 25 and 28 times lower than the proportion in the United Kingdom and the United States, respectively.²

There are also challenges about the readiness of universities to act as sources of innovation and in their linking up with firms to explore possibilities for the commercialization of innovations.³ “In the third edition of the African Innovation Outlook (AIO 2019) produced by AU-DA-NEPAD, it is argued that while universities are areas of highest concentration of research activities in Africa, they are rated poorly by companies as sources of innovation and consultancy services.”

“No African country surveyed for this indicator had 50% or more of the firms rating consultants, university colleges or technical colleges, and government public research institutions as important sources of information for their innovation,” according to the report. In this regard, the report seems to be a wake-up and an alarm call for the African countries to consider the value of funding research in public universities and other quasi-government research institutions, if the output is not being utilized.

Research is done mostly to inform action, analyze fact, prove a theory, benchmark experiences, provide a solution compare findings and contribute to the existing knowledge. Research is pivotal to development because it informs decisions, actions and policy. It enlightens and empowers actors where an evidence approach is embraced in governance. Africa therefore needs to enhance research by investing in right areas and tools to identify what is relevant to its developmental trajectory as mirrored in

¹Sourced from https://qz.com/africa/1450147/africa-needs-to-spend-more-on-research-and-development/
African Union Agenda 2063. The continent also needs to enhance its own research on the global agendas and sustainable development in, social, economic political and environmental spheres to avoid being solely a consumer and receptacle of studies from other continents. It is important for the continent to support research strategies which enhance the improvement of societies as founded in the 'Africa we want' road map and in the vision of the 'World we want'. More local research should be encouraged to take into account the context, the specificities and requirements of the continent, for evidence-informed policymaking, and hopefully generate better outcomes and solutions desired by citizens across Africa.

The African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 "Our Aspiration for the Africa we want" is the strategic framework that seeks to deliver on its goals for inclusive and sustainable development. It is a concrete manifestation of the Pan-Africa drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity. Agenda 2063 clearly demonstrates the commitment of vision of an Africa that is integrated, prosperous and driven by its own citizens.

The international community agreed in 2015 on a set of Agendas and Goals for the 'World we want', insisting on inclusive and equitable quality education (SDG 4) and on strengthening partnerships (SDG 17). Consequently, the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) in collaboration and close partnership with Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) - South Africa, the School of Public Management and Administration (SPMA) – University of Pretoria, and the African Local Governments Academy (ALGA) of UCLG - Africa will conduct a joint Seminar on Strengthening Research Capacities and Capabilities for Attainment of the African Union Agenda 2063 and Global Agendas 2030. This initiative is a response that seeks to strengthen research capacities and capabilities in Africa as way of enhancing sustainable development.

The seminar sub-themes will strengthen capacities and capabilities for attainment of:
1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.
2. An integrated continent politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance.
3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law.
4. A peaceful and secure Africa.
5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics.
6. An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children.
7. Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner.
OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

The Main Objective of the Seminar
To strengthen research capacities in Africa to support the achievement of the AU Agenda 2063 and Global Agenda 2030.

The Specific Objectives are:
✓ To master the basics, requirements, and methodology of academia research;
✓ To strengthen the research capacities of lecturers, students, scholars and practitioners across the continent;
✓ To create an African platform for synergizing research and development in the continent;
✓ To develop an interface between policy and research.
✓ To foster the achievement of AU Agenda 2063 and Global Agendas 2030 through research.

METHODOLOGY

The seminar shall be conducted through lectures, discussion, simulations and presentation of case studies. Different country case studies will be shared during the seminar sessions to benchmark, to give practical experiences and skills on strengthening research capacity and capability towards the achievement of Agenda 2063 and Global Agendas 2030.

TARGET GROUP

The seminar is intended for middle and senior level practitioners (public and private sectors administrators, managers and other officers) in regional, national, decentralized, research and academic institutions including lecturers, scholars, students and development agencies.

DATE OF THE SEMINAR

It will be held from 26th to 28th August 2020. The duration for the seminar will be three days (3) days.

VENUE

University of the Western Cape, Bellville, South Africa.
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THE HOSTING INSTITUTIONS

The African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM)

AAPAM is an international professional organization that promotes best practice, excellence and professionalism in public administration and management in Africa through research, publications, training, seminars, consultancy, conferences and awards. AAPAM draws its membership from sectors including governments, corporate bodies, private sector, civil society, international organizations, individual members and students. The Association provides its members with a platform for articulation and dissemination of ideas on capacity building and development of Africa. AAPAM operates mainly but not exclusively in Africa.

Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) - South Africa

The mission of the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) is to establish norms and standards to ensure that the state machinery functions optimally, and that such norms and standards are adhered to; implement interventions to maintain a compliant and functioning public service; promote an ethical public service through programs, systems, frameworks and structures that detect, prevent and combat corruption; and contribute towards improved public administration in Africa and internationally through dialogue and sharing of best practices. The Department is required to facilitate and support efforts that seek to, among others, improve service delivery quality and access; human resource management and development; business processes; systems and accountability management; anti-corruption and integrity; and effective public participation.

School of Public Management and Administration (SPMA) – University of Pretoria

Domestic and global challenges demand that professionals be multi-disciplinary in approach. The location of SPMA in the University of Pretoria (UP) Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences exposes students to a multi-disciplinary education, allowing for cross-fertilization between fields and the holistic development of our graduates. However, over the past few years, the SPMA has transformed itself into an entity that does more than just provide students with a tertiary qualification. Its programs extend beyond the confines of formal full time study programs, and it is currently the frontrunner in the presentation of short courses by an academic institution. Through the campus enterprise, Enterprises at UP, the SPMA is able to share the knowledge and experience of its academic staff with thousands of employees in the public sector.
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa and its African Local Governments Academy (ALGA)

The United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-Africa) is the representative umbrella Pan African Organization of Local Authorities from the five (5) African Regions, since May 2005. The Headquarters of the Organization is at 22, Rue Essaadyine Hassan in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, where it is recognized as an International Organization with Pan-African local authority's diplomatic status. UCLG-Africa is the representative of Local Africa in United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) as its Regional Section in the Continent. UCLG-Africa has three main objectives: Promoting Decentralization and Local Governance; raising the voice of local and regional authorities, through lobbying and advocacy; and strengthening the capacities of Local and Regional Governments. As part of its mandate, UCLG-Africa created the African Local Governments Academy (ALGA), as a subsidiary body, to contribute to strengthening the leadership managerial capacities and skills of elected officials, improving the professionalism of territorial managers, and empowering human capital at grass roots level (www.uclga.org & www.uclgafrica-alga.org)