

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT AFFAIRS (ADA)

An interdisciplinary journal seeking solutions to challenges confronting Africa and Africans

Call for Papers for the Inaugural Edition

Theme: Responsive Democracy and African Leadership in a Neo-Liberal Age

The recently concluded elections in Kenya which returned the incumbent president to power sparked violent protest with ethnic colourations by those who felt their democratic rights had been trampled upon. Prior to the Kenyan electoral soap opera, the world watched with some trepidation the rancour that gripped the African National Congress (ANC) over the election of a new party leader and potential future president of South Africa. While the above events dominated the headlines towards the close of 2007, there were presidential elections in other parts of Africa including Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Fallout from the Nigerian general elections of 2007 is still being felt, with numerous results still disputed in the courts many months after voting. Sierra Leone's presidential election was a source of worry for many observers given the nation's recent history of conflict. Emerging post-poll violence in some parts of Sierra Leone was quickly contained by the transfer of power to the victorious party. Elections alone cannot tell the entire story of the leadership challenges facing Africa and Africans.

The conflict in Darfur continues to defy solutions, Chad is unstable and things have fallen apart in Zimbabwe. In East Africa, armed groups are yet to be fully pacified in Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Southern Sudan. Efforts to put the Tuareg insurgency in Mali and Niger into the fore in the light of ECOWAS Early Warning Mechanism are 'cleverly' played down by the authorities of both countries who continue to brand the insurgents as "bandits". Varying degrees of leadership dissatisfaction are part of the lived realities of Africans from Cairo to Cape Town and from Bissau to Mogadishu. Implicated in this dissatisfaction are actors in global power centres including Paris, London, Washington D.C. and Beijing. The more extreme response across Africa has been civil conflict and, in some cases, attempts to immigrate to economically prosperous regions outside of Africa. The external response has included the promotion of liberal peace, greater border controls, economic deregulation and the creation of the Africa Military Command (AFRICOM).

The inaugural issue of *African Development Affairs* (ADA) is soliciting for articles (5000 – 6000 wds) that critically engage with the challenge of responsive democracy, leadership and social development in Africa, situated or contextualized within the continents long and complex history of social struggle. The editorial board encourages scholarly articles that are able to synthesise 'lessons learnt' from the many challenging, failed and successful initiatives inside Africa.

The editors' advice that articles engage with one or more of the following questions:

- What is “responsible leadership” in the African context?
- Is the quality of Africa’s leadership a reflection of the quality of Africa’s citizenship?
- What is the relationship between elections and resource control in Africa?
- Why is the incidence of gender-based political violence worsening in a continent of ‘sweet mothers’?
- How can Africa nurture a culture of responsive democracy?
- Across Africa’s multi-cultural landscape, is leadership authority personal or collective?
- To what extent do leadership and governance impact African development?
- Are global power structures responsible for the actions of African leaders?

The editors will also accept short, well-informed opinion pieces (1500 – 2000 wds).

Vision of the journal

African Development Affairs (ADA) is a quarterly inter-disciplinary journal that aims to contribute to policy-making both inside and outside Africa, by exploring the development options for Africa from an Africa-centric perspective, through peer-reviewed articles of the highest academic standard, contributing to debate on solutions to the historic and complex social struggles confronting Africans.

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Information for contributors

Articles and opinion pieces for submission are accepted only in electronic form and should be emailed to the executive editor at ddavies@afriweekmagazine.com. Please see detailed submission guidelines available on the website of our sister journal at: <http://www.journalofafricanmediastudies.com/guidelines.pdf>

The publishers

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