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Special Issue - Digitalisation and governance, legislative oversight, and service delivery in Africa

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African governments remain seized with the permanent goal of achieving development and a better standard of living for their citizens. Government is responsible for formulating public policies that address societal issues and delivering much needed basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity and waste removal, all of which are crucial to the affirmation of human dignity and facilitating an acceptable standard of living. The delivery of basic services is also crucial to creating an enabling environment for local economic development because businesses need such services to function and continue executing economic activities in a given subnational jurisdiction. Moreover, governments can enable economic development through sound development planning, policymaking, resource allocation, implementation, and the monitoring, review and evaluation of the performance of such plans and policies vis-à-vis their goals of economic stimulation. The process of digitalisation as a product of the Third and Fourth Industrial Revolutions presents important opportunities for governments to improve the efficiency of their processes and systems and drive socio-economic change.

Digital Policy Studies is an open-access, peer-reviewed interdisciplinary academic journal published by the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Johannesburg. The Journal focuses on the empirical, critical and intersectoral study of subjects related to digital policy and the fourth industrial revolution, cybersecurity, the digitalisation of politics, the digital economy, information and communication technology, the convergence of technology and society, new media and related topics. The Editorial Board embarked on this Special Issue on Digitalisation and Governance in line with the 2020s push by Governments to digitalise their activities and operations, ensuring transparency and agility of public institutions. This Special Issue is constituted by peer-reviewed articles that respond to themes such as:

- E-governance in Africa
- Adoption of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) in governance (planning, policymaking, budgeting, revenue collection)
- ICTs and their implications for national and continental economic development: potential and risks
- Comparative analysis of ICTs adoption in subnational government across Africa
- ICTs and their use in the relationship between governments and citizens

- Digitalisation and its impact on government performance
- African governments and their policy approaches to ICTs
- The implications of proliferating ICT innovations for national and human security in Africa
- Government knowledge management systems in the era of digitalisation
- Digital policy implementation best practices across Africa: opportunities for learning and adaptation for governments seeking societal digital transformation

The digital age has arrived in the Global South, changing the way we live, work and think. Governments are increasingly seeking to move from paper-based manual systems towards digital systems as enabled by ICTs. Africa is a continent constituted by developing countries with emerging as well as rudimentary ICT access. This Special Issue has explored the readiness, uptake and impact of digitalisation on African governance processes, systems and procedures. The Editorial Team is confident that readers will benefit from discourse on the interface between digitalisation and governance, and the impact thereof on the efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness of governments vis-à-vis discharging their mandates.

The Editorial Team

Digital Policy Studies