



SAAPAM

SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION
OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
AND MANAGEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



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South African Association of Public
Administration and Management, in
conjunction with the
Centre for Africa Studies -
University of the Free State, hosts its
12th Annual Conference

Theme:

**STATE OF GOVERNANCE IN
AFRICA AT THE TURN OF THE
CENTENARY OF THE AFRICAN
NATIONAL CONGRESS:
REFLECTIVE PERSPECTIVES FROM
SCHOLARSHIP AND PRACTICE**



**12th Annual Conference
CALL FOR PAPERS
2012**

www.saapam.co.za

Formed in 1912 as a national liberation movement, the African National Congress (ANC) assumed power as the ruling party in South Africa in 1994. The year 2012 marks the centenary of its birth. Since its establishment the ANC has always been the subject of intellectual interest for social scientists of various disciplinary persuasions. This became even more so after its assumption of power, which heralded the democratic system of government following decades of colonialism and apartheid rule. The ANC introduced policies that resulted in many changes in the business of government in South Africa, which is public administration. In the contemporary disciplinary parlance governance appears to be a more preferred term than public administration, although in some instances these terms are used interchangeably. The policies that the ANC introduced profoundly influenced the strategic orientation of the governance dynamics not only in South Africa but also in other countries on the African continent.

Much has been written about the historiographical traditions of the ANC by historians, with scholars of governance examining their implications on the science and practice of public administration. Following the former President F W de Klerk's speech of 02 February 1990 the possibility of a democratic dispensation became certain. Consequently, a group of scholars in the field convened in 1991 in Magaliesburg to imagine the future of public administration in a democratic context, both as science and practice. In that gathering dubbed the Mount Grace 1, it was observed that "the theory, teaching and practice of Public Administration is (sic) in crisis, therefore outdated in a rapidly transforming society" (Mount Grace Resolution 1991). Against this background and in anticipation of the 1994 democratic breakthrough, important commitments were made to correct this situation.

When the ANC assumed power in 1994 it came with the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) and later, in 1996, introduced the Growth, Employment and Redistribution Strategy (GEAR). These policy trajectories had profound implications on the science and practice of public administration. The Presidential Review Commission (PRC) constituted in 1996 during the Mandela administration also played an important role in informing the transformation of public administration in South Africa. It informed the strategic policy orientation of the Mbeki administration on the business of government, following the second democratic elections in 1999. This is the same year when the Mount Grace 11 was convened to assess how the Mount Grace 1 intervention fared.

The world of practice in South Africa continues to express concerns about the relevance of the science of public administration. In this one is tempted to ask whether the Mount Grace interventions were really based on solid epistemological grounds that took into consideration liberation philosophies and theories that evolved into a body of knowledge from which important insights were drawn in constructing the new South Africa. If so, why is the question of relevance often come up when public administration scholarship interfaces with the practice? Did the science of public administration get the theoretical paradigm for the discipline wrong or is the political power obstinate to acknowledge the relevance of scholarship in providing the theoretical template for governance in a democratic state? Necessarily, consideration of these questions bring to the fore the question of science in the 21st century.

Following the 51st National Conference of the ANC on 16-20 December 2002 in Stellenbosch, the concept of a developmental state evolved which impacts profoundly on the science and practice of public administration. The Mbeki administration pursued the developmental state agenda, which, following the 2009 national elections that retained the ANC in power, the Zuma administration currently seeks to consolidate. Again the charge from the world of practice is that the quality of public administration scholarship is not relevant to the developmental state orientation of the country. The theory and practice of public administration in South Africa is in a state of flux expected to respond to a particular political thinking at a particular point in history, especially that of the ANC as the ruling party. This is so because the foundation of administration is in politics. As Rosenbloom (1993:06) puts it, "the idea that public administration can be separated from politics is odd". As scholars of governance and administration, we cannot afford to be unmindful of the fact that the centenary of the ANC constitutes an important opportunity for reflective discourse on the state of governance in South Africa and the African continent.

A centenary in scholarly terms represents a wealth of knowledge that evolved over a period of 100 years. Behind any centenary is the significance of original thoughts on a particular object of scientific inquiry. It is in this context that the South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM), in conjunction with the Centre for Africa Studies at the University of Free State, decided to organise its 12th Annual Conference around the theme "**State of governance in Africa at the turn of the centenary of the African National Congress: reflective perspectives from scholarship and practice**". The objective is to examine the original thoughts of the ANC on issues governance. In this regard, the fundamental contextual questions for reflective discourse in the field that capture the thematic essence and quintessence of the conference are:

- Is there anything of epistemological value in the long history of existence of the ANC that could be used to make sense of the current state of governance in South Africa and the continent as whole?
- Does the body of knowledge that evolved in its history make any contribution to the governance thought?
- Does the current state of governance in Africa mirror the historical traditions of the ANC in terms of its philosophical and strategic policy orientation?
- Does it have to mirror those traditions?
- Are those traditions relevant in the current situation?
- Does the centenary of the ANC provide an opportunity for re-imagining the future of governance in South Africa?

The National Board of the South African Association of Public Administration and Management, in conjunction with the Centre for Africa Studies, invites you to its 12th Annual Conference, which is a gathering of scholars and practitioners, to be part of the intellectual process of imagining the *future* from the *past* based on the *present*. Come and be part of this important dialogue which seeks to inform the theory and practice of governance and administration. The event is scheduled to take place on **07-09 March 2012** in Bloemfontein, University of the Free State. With the ANC as the subject of the conference, it is only appropriate that the discourse on the state of governance in South Africa and the entire African continent at the turn of the ANC's centenary takes place in Mangaung in the Free State, where the ANC was born. A plenary for practitioners is envisaged, where narratives from the practice or case study presentations on service delivery in the different sectors of government would be accommodated. Government officials are therefore as well strongly encouraged to submit papers for presentations based on their experiences in managing the dynamics of governance.

Original papers on the theme of the conference which seeks to inform theoretical and policy discourses on governance are hereby invited for presentation and possible publication in the *Journal of Public Administration*. The following sub-themes were formulated to contextualise the theme of the conference

TRACK 1 Theoretical questions: sub-themes	TRACK 2 Empirical questions: sub-themes	TRACK 3 Narratives from practice: sub-themes
Contextualisation of the historiographical traditions of the ANC and the theory of governance and science of public administration	Governance and policy practice	Service delivery/service excellence
Governance and public administration – do they		Case study presentations on service delivery mile-

TRACK 1 Theoretical questions: sub-themes	TRACK 2 Empirical questions: sub-themes	TRACK 3 Narratives from practice: sub-themes
Politics of transformation and administrative reform	Financial management	
Public administration scholarship in the 21 st century and the question of relevance	Innovation, monitoring and evaluation	
Does science always matter in the questions of governance?	Ethics and professionalism	
Unresolved questions of political-administrative interface: are there answers in the governance paradigm?	Provincial and local government/ intergovernmental relations	

Abstracts of between 250-350 words should be submitted on or before 11 December 2011. In the cover page of the abstract the following information need to be specified:

- Title of Submission
- Conference sub-theme
- Name of author (s)
- Institutional affiliation of author (s)
- Address(es) of author (s)
- E-mail address (es) of author (s)

Conference papers submitted for possible publication in the Journal should strictly adhere to the editorial policy requirements regarding specifications for manuscript submissions. The submission date for full papers for inclusion of names on the programme is the 10 February 2012. In keeping with item 3 of the Editorial Policy of the Journal of Public Administration, all papers submitted by the due date shall be circulated anonymously to specialist referees for evaluation. It is only on the basis of the referees' reports that the Editor may either accept or reject any paper submitted for publication in the Journal.

Except in special cases where prior permission has been obtained, papers should not exceed 5000 words. Prospective contributors are specifically requested to ensure that the language and technical aspects of their contributions are of a high standard. In this regard, proof to this effect would be required. Papers should be submitted electronically; typed in 1.5 line spacing, 12pt Times New Roman and accompanied by an English abstract of between 250 and 350 words. Since papers are circulate anonymously for evaluation, the name and affiliation of the author (s) should on a separate page. Only the Harvard style will be accepted for references. Abstracts and full papers should be e-mailed to SAAPAM@tut.ac.za

Benefits of attending the conference

Papers presented in the conference and reviewed may be published in the Journal of Public Administration. The conference provides an access to the formal communication network with SAAPAM members, and ample opportunity for networking and building bonds between practitioners, academics, researchers and other professionals in the discipline of Public Administration and Management.

Important dates (must be received at our office by)

Submission for presentation consideration	11 December 2011
Regular Payment	11 December 2011
Payment Receipt	11 December 2011
Late Registration	10 February 2011
Event dates	07-09 March 2011

Submissions for presentation consideration

Deadline: 11 December 2011

Submit to: SAAPAM@tut.ac.za

Submit a 250-350 words abstract, work-in process or full paper to: SAAPAM@tut.ac.za early submissions are greatly appreciated. By submitting a paper, you certify that all co-authors are aware of the submission and consent to presentation of the work. All submission must be in Microsoft word. Include the contact information for all authors on the first page of the document. You will receive an email containing an acceptance or rejection

Presentation Equipment

Each conference room will be equipped with a computer and LCD projector. The presentation rooms will not be equipped with an internet connection.

How to register

Complete the attached Registration Form; fax or email it for the attention of John Molepo, SAAPAM Administrator at 012 799 9042 or SAAPAM@tut.ac.za. Alternatively, visit the www.saapam.co.za for online registration. **Please remember to attach proof of payment.**

Conference Fees

Deadline: 10 February 2012

Conference registration fees are not refundable or transferable. Conference registration R2500-00 per delegate (for Members)/ R3000-00 (for non-members). Please note that this amount does not include accommodation. The booking and payment of accommodation is the (separate) responsibility of the delegate. Please note that this is a prepaid event. Payment and registration is required by 10 February 2012. Payments can be made to the following Bank Account:

Name of the Bank: Standard Bank
 Account Holder: SAAPAM
 Account Number: 012580015
 Branch Code: 01-15-45-15
 Kindly fax or email proof of payment to the attention of:
 John Molepo
 Tel: 012 382 9769
 Fax: 012 799 9042
 Cell: 076 750 2300
 E-mail: SAAPAM@tut.ac.za

Accommodation

Protea Hotel

Bloemfontein Plaza, East Burger Street
 Bloemfontein, 9301
 Tel: 051 403 800
 Fax: 051 447 7102
 Email: bloemf@iafrica.com
 Website: proteahotels.com/bloemfonteincentral

Dersley Manor

www.dersleymanor.co.za
 082 558 1945

The Urban Hotel

www.urbanhotel.co.za
 051 444 3142
 Stanville Hotel
www.stanville.co.za
 051 447 7471

Southern Sun Hotel

www.southernsun.com/Hotels/Bloemfontein
 051 444 1253

African Lodge

REGISTRATION FORM

DELEGATE DETAILS

TITLE: _____

FULL NAMES: _____

SURNAME: _____

ORGANISATION: _____

DEPARTMENT: _____

JOB TITLE: _____

CONTACT DETAILS

TEL: _____

CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

COUNTRY: _____

DISABILITY ACCESS

My requirements are:

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Dietary requirements (Mark with an X)

Vegetarian Halaal Diabetic Other: _____

PLEASE QUOTE DELEGATE'S FULL NAME WITH PAYMENT

CONTACT DETAILS

MR JOHN MOLEPO

TEL: 012 382 9769

FAX: 012 799 9042