



## Editorial Introduction

Welcome! We are excited to share with you the second issue of the AfriFuture Research Bulletin. The Bulletin, published quarterly under the auspices of the AfriFuture Research and Development Trust (AfriFuture), is committed to undertaking and disseminating cutting-edge, rigorous and transformational social science research. This issue features 10 exciting articles that address diverse socio-economic and political themes. We are impressed by the level of scholarship and commitment by authors to see their articles being published. As in the inaugural edition, in the current Bulletin we ensured that articles published underwent a rigorous double blind peer review process. We are grateful to all the reviewers from different academic institutions who provided timeous and critical feedback on manuscripts submitted to the Bulletin. We hope for your continued support in the future!

Based on Bubi district, the first article provides crucial insights into sesame production from a livelihood perspective and within the realm of one of current challenges - climate change. In this article, Freedom Nleya argues that although sesame is a relatively new crop in Zimbabwe, it has significant potential to improve the livelihood portfolios of rural communities and broadly, national food security and foreign currency earning. In a world characterized by rapid technological advancement that has positively contributed to humanity, Dortea Shipena, Torque Mude and Fungai Bhunu-Shava in the second article explore the darker side of technological advancement. Their article which focuses on Namibia shows that the social media is now being increasingly used to commit numerous cyber-crimes. They argue that these crimes are having serious negative implications on human security, human health and the natural environment.

Covid-19 as a new pandemic has led to various disruptions and decimations globally. Within this context, Farisai Mlambo and Edwin Ndlovhu in the third article interrogate access to Covid-19 information by persons living with disabilities. The focal argument is that access to Covid-19 information (or any other aspect) is an inalienable right for everyone. A multi-stakeholder approach is fundamental in efforts intended to improve access to Covid-19 information by people with disabilities. The fourth article by Kwashirai Zvokuomba, Witness Chikoko, Itai Kabonga, Kudzai Mwapaura and Kudzai Nyabeze features yet another critical dimension – the methodological complexities and opportunities in a Covid-19 context. The paper proffers vital insights on how ethnography can be done in a changed context ushered by the new novel virus.

Is music a pivotal ingredient for building peace? Lazarus Sauti uniquely grapples with this question in the fifth article. Particularly engaging Victor Kunonga's songs and acknowledging that music is not the only consideration, Sauti argues that music can drive peace building in Zimbabwe. Kunonga and other artists can tap on the reach, spread, and acceptance of their music to 'preach' the need for peace and co-existence. Disability inclusion is topical at national, regional and international levels. This is shown by the increasing focus on disability in both governance and development policies and initiatives. Kudzai Mwapaura



and Witness Chikoko acknowledge the centrality of enhancing the socio-economic wellbeing of people with disabilities on the basis of field-based evidence drawn from St Giles Rehabilitation Centre in Harare in the sixth article. This article is has wide relevance pertaining to the rehabilitation of people with disabilities and broader aspects of their welfare. In the seventh article, Torque Mude, Percyslage Chigora and Adele Mcilo are bold enough to tackle the thorny and oftentimes hidden issue of corruption in non-governmental organisations (NGO's) in Zimbabwe. The argue that the NGO sector is not immune to the cancerous issue of corruption which is negatively impacting on developmental projects and service delivery. They proffer insight on what needs to be done to deal with the scourge of corruption in NGOs to ensure sustainable development and that they effectively undertake their mandates.

Tendai Eden Nyambiya and Tinashe Muromo contribute to ground-breaking empirical evidence on what influences people's decisions to donate blood and proffers strategies for improving the retention of blood donors. They argue that a blood bank is an essential national resource whose sufficiency is pivotal. In the ninth article, Kudzai Mwapaura, Witness Chikoko, Kudzai Nyabeze and Kwashirai Zvokuomba explore the socio-economic challenges faced by persons with disabilities induced by road traffic accidents in Zimbabwe. Although the article is micro-oriented - based on St Giles Rehabilitation Centre in Harare – it provides focal insights and policy options for transforming the lives of people with disabilities particularly those being rehabilitated at various centers for disabilities resulting from road traffic accidents. The last article is rooted in conflict transformation and the quest for peace in Zimbabwe. Tinashe Gumbo and Collins Kudakwashe Shava engage with the level and utility of applying Lederach's Conflict Transformation Theory by the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) in National Dialogue (ND). While Lederach's theory is not the sole body of ideas applicable to peacebuilding in relation to the role of the Church and that depending on context, it has pitfalls the article shows that ZCC's peacebuilding model is positively informed by Lederach's body of ideas. Peacebuilding and sustenance are important for sustainable development and good governance.

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