

Developmental Public Administration and Service Delivery Challenges in Post-Mandela South Africa

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The possibility of a developmental public administration presupposes the possibility of the development state in the sub-Saharan African postcolony. The former is inconceivable in the absence of the latter. In this paper, we shift the paradigm of developmental public administration from efficient service delivery to democratic governance, in the process, undertaking radical revision of the idea of public provisioning. We argue that public administration in current democracies cannot be viewed in isolation from public engagement and popular participation and therefore micro and macro policies aimed at reforming the public service for better service delivery must engage with these issues critically. This is what is herein conceptualized as developmental public administration. We contend that the eventual outcome and success of this developmental public administration will depend on the possibility of the developmental state.