Editorial

Editor-in-Chief
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This volume consists of five articles. The first article by Samuel Lisenga Simbine and Liana le Roux entitled "Indigenous mentoring and monitoring system amongst Vatsonga speaking people towards child protection" investigates the potential contribution of indigenous knowledge to child protection among the Vatsonga people of Southern Africa. Qualitative research through the use of a case study research design was adopted. Data was collected through the use of semi-structured interviews involving 40 participants selected from two areas in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Unique childcare practices of Vatsonga entail collective child-rearing where extended family members and the community play a critical role in the upbringing of Tsonga children. Communal care and kinship care rooted in the African philosophy of Ubuntu ensures that even vulnerable children have a safety net. The extended family and kinship ties serve as an effective informal social network for orphans, the vulnerable and all other at-risk children. The findings emanating from the case study of Vatsonga stress the centrality and influence of indigenous knowledge systems, values, beliefs, cultural practices in terms of child upbringing, protection and care. In many ways Vatsonga

indigenous knowledge system and child care practices do complement and enhance formal child protection services and measures.

The second article by Innocent Chirisa, Aaron Maphosa and Liaison Mukarwi entitled "The politics of street vending in Harare: reflections on the events of 2015" examines the conflicting views on the role of street vending in an economy increasingly characterized by a collapsing or declining urban formal economy. Two forces namely urban poverty and high unemployment are seen as the major drivers of the decision by people to seek their livelihoods in the streets. Street vending has thus taken centre stage in the development of Harare once dubbed the sunshine city. Current urban problems in Harare include the collapse of formal businesses, human and traffic congestion in the city centre, the dominance of informal businesses, urban pollution and the collapse of local governance structures and planning authorities. The article discusses the interconnection between urban politics, informality, street vending, sustainability, patronage and the city economy. Street vending in Harare perpetuated by conflicting views has ruined town planning principles of orderly development, health and safety, and the general welfare and well-being of the city. Street management and development are difficulty to effect in the light of contrasting views of politicians. Some are strongly opposed to street vending and others who see it as a good thing in the light of urban poverty and rising unemployment. Harare's urban economy is under serious threat for as long as the current morass is not urgently resolved.

The third article by Patrick Onochie Okonta, Andrew Ikechukwu Mobosi and Victor Chukwunweike Nwokocha entitled "COVID-19 and the Dwindling Fortunes of Nigeria oil sector: a call for economic diversification through small and medium enterprises", discusses the huge challenge faced by crude oil-exporting countries such as Nigeria due to the pandemic. Nigeria, Africa's

most populous country has suffered from the international oil sector's price volatility due to the debilitating economic effects of the COVID 19 pandemic. The article notes that Nigeria's potential for sustained economic growth and expansion lies in the adoption of economic diversification. One way to achieve economic transformation and diversification is through embracing small and medium enterprises. Generally SMEs are seen as the engine of growth for modern economies. SMEs provide more employment opportunities to a larger proportion of the population and in addition contribute more to poverty reduction strategies. The article uses secondary time series data covering the period 1981 to 2017 obtained from the Central Bank of Nigeria Statistical Bulletin.

The fourth article by Maradze Viriri and Nobuhle Ndimande-Hlongwa entitled "Gender stereotyping as reflected in the meanings of some Zezuru anthroponymes" demonstrates the link between some gendered personal names among the Zezuru and the perpetuation of gender differences. Names are powerful socialization as well as an identity tool. Among the Zezuru names do reflect gender status through gender stereotyping which eventually reinforces gender inequality. Boys' names tend to be positive and respectful as they express and carry the family's hopes and aspirations. On the other hand among the Zezuru girls' tend to be given names that reinforce their subordinate status in a patriarchal society. Girls are channeled into their subordinate status roles through the naming process which negatively stereotypes them. Some names in this article stigmatise and label name bearers along gender lines which reinforces gender inequality within the Zezuru society. It is therefore important that parents be encouraged to give their children gender-neutral names. This approach is likely to break the cycle of gender inequality. Through naming a system of promotion of a gender-fair discourse can be ushered in and that can eventually lead to equal participation of men and women in the socio-economic and political activities of one's society.

The last article by Ayobami Popoola and Hangwelani H. Magidimisha-Chipungu entitled "Infrastructural Development as a Tool for Enhancing Rural Development: Case Studies from Nigeria, Tanzania and China" examined rural livelihoods, infrastructure investments and policy directions in Nigeria, Tanzania and China. Effective rural service delivery and improved infrastructure provision have been identified as drivers towards improving the livelihoods conditions of rural people. Identifying this has resulted in the development of infrastructure-driven policies for the development of rural areas. This article seeks to explain the role played by infrastructure in enhancing rural livelihood(s) in Nigeria, Tanzania and China through a thematic review of the literature. The article concludes by making arguments for the adoption several rural development strategies drawing from China's experiences that can trigger rural development. The suggested triggers include agricultural financing; promotion of indigenous technologies and encouragement of public-private partnership adoption of robust agriculture polices.