



Preface

This commemorative edition is a product of the subprogram for Governance and Transformation. As such it is an opportunity for various young academicians to publish alongside masters of the art such as Proff. B.J. (Bennie) van de Walt and J.F. (Johan) Kirsten. Within these pages an overview is provided of contemporary politics, with perspectives ranging from analytical, descriptive and normative to the practical appraisal of the new challenges facing institutions for higher education. In a nutshell this edition of *Koers* provides a window on current realities and an ever-changing environment.

Mr. J.C.M. Venter and Prof. A. Duvenhage focuses on the Polokwane conference and the implications of the watershed decisions taken at this conference for “a second political transition” in South Africa. The new hegimonically dominant ANC, with a stronger ideological base, is analysed and potential outcomes/scenarios are postulated.

Prof. J.F. Kirsten looks at the African continent and analyses the new positive trends and old challenges discernable at the beginning of the new century. He reflects on new economic growth, new prodemocracy movements, and the ending of several long standing conflicts.

Prof. B.J. van der Walt formulates perspectives for normative politics and reconstructs the message of the Institute for Reformational Studies (IRS) during the period 1976-1996. In the first part of his article a worldview that serves as foundation for a Christian perspective on politics is set apart and described.

Mr. P.W. Heidenrych describes the deficiencies of the local government system that relates to the role of this sphere of government in the deepening of participatory democracy. He proposes that a lack of depth and quality in local democracy compromises the system of intergovernmental relations.

Prof. G. van der Waldt defines structures of governance as those that carry accountability and power and so binds organisations. With a growing emphasis on project applications for policy implementa-

tion and service delivery, mechanisms or structures should be established to facilitate clear interfaces between permanent organisation and temporary project organisation.

Mr. A. Schoeman describes the shifting emphasis on the failed state from a regional humanitarian problem to the recognition that these states could pose a significant threat to global security. In this regard US policymakers in particular, have identified failed states as sources of potential terrorist threats. This renewed interest has exposed a number of theoretical deficiencies in the body of literature regarding this phenomenon.

Mr. D. van Schalkwyk provides an overview of the government's formulation of the taxi recapitalisation policy aimed at the regulating of the minibus taxi industry. This is done together with a social, political and historical contextualisation of this policy.

Me. L. Vermeulen appraises the e-readiness of online learning facilitators against the background of recent changes in higher education institutions. The new demand to incorporate technology in teaching and learning activities is exempted for special attention.

This group of talented and mostly young academicians brings actuality and readability to this edition of *Koers*. The hope is expressed that they will use this as a starting point for long and fruitful research careers.

André Duvenhage
Guest Editor