

## Editorial

Reading the ten articles in this Volume 6, Issue Number 1 of the *Fountain Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, one would be forgiven to conclude that ‘nothing’ seems to work in Zimbabwe, and that the very fabric of society is tearing apart. But that is only one level of the analysis. Perhaps another level of analysis would give a more optimistic picture, namely that; some local scholars and researchers are keenly aware of where the challenges are and what needs to be done to raise the bar of performance. Or perhaps, is it that research is problem seeking and solution finding? Either way, if indeed this is the case, then this volume has done a splendid job.

The article by Lawrence Dumisani Nyathi decries the inconsistent policy implementation strategies by central and local government in supporting Small to Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) while lauding the seriousness with which government takes this economic sector shown in the creation of an entire ministry to co-ordinate its activities. His conclusion however is gloomy, ‘Universities are churning out graduates who will find it hard to get jobs and thus end up in informal trading to survive. While on the one hand Informal trading is creating employment, sustaining livelihoods, producing cheap goods and services, on the other hand, their operations are hampered by difficulties such as harassment by law enforcement agents, stiff competition, lack of infrastructure and capital, as well as negative perceptions by established operators’. Tapiwa Musasa also identifies policy implementation shortfalls and argues that the reason for policy implementation especially for rural women in Gokwe was the absence of the exclusion of these rural women in the policy formulation processes and implementation. The lack of buy-in by those for whom policies are made results in the women losing the intended benefits as well as failure by the authorities to implement. The overall impact being retarded national development even after over 40 years of independence and self-determination. Paul Nemashakwe identifies poor leadership as the balm of the poor performance of SMEs and the root of their problems and proposes an Afrocentric Effective Leadership instrument (AEL) for Zimbabwe. Blazio Manobo’s article on Mashurugwi and Majahana Lunga’s article on deviant youth behaviour in Bulawayo represent a breakdown of moral norms that normally keep society secure and productive. But the reasons for the breakdown and the distress caused is not entirely a result of

longstanding economic challenges, but of a creeping neglect of obligations to the spirit world, harmony with which for African societies is critical for wellbeing, health and prosperity. The Article by Deliah Jeranyama focuses on third dimension. And Manobo's article on reviewing sacramental practice in the aftermath of Covid 19 also tangentially point to the importance of the spiritual dimension. And finally, the last two articles on marriage and counseling by Andreas Zvaiwa deal with various types of marriage obtaining in traditional Bikita communities. So, all the articles speak of something that needs to give or to change to usher an imagined better society. However, while utopian aspirations are in themselves noble as they keep humanity on its toes to build a better world, it is doubtful that such a world will come to pass given the nature of man. The conflict in Europe between Russia and Ukraine and the many other conflicts plaguing our world indicate that there is a cap placed on progress by the very constitution of man.