Editorial

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I write this Editorial as the world is still under the grip of a pandemic and amidst fears of a fourth wave. A Global Fund's Results Report of 2021 recommends scaling up measures to continue HIV, TB and malaria services while delivering critical supplies for the COVID-19 response to prevent health care systems from collapsing. This is crucial because people living with AIDS are in double jeopardy, simultaneously facing attacks from two pandemics. Further, the UNAIDS Global AIDS Update of 2021 reports on England and South Africa studies found that the risk of dying from COVID-19 among people living with HIV was double that of the general population. With so much focus on the COVID-19 pandemic, it is easy to lose focus on the equally devastating pandemic that is HIV and AIDS. Their article on the experiences and challenges of caregivers of people living with HIV and AIDS in healthcare facilities in Mahikeng, South Africa, Macinga, Ntombela, and Mabvurira show that caregivers face multiple challenges. The authors used a phenomenological research design and focused on five healthcare facilities in South Africa's Mahikeng area. Their research suggests that few of the caregivers received debriefing sessions to handle related stress. Instead, the caregivers resort to other coping strategies such as collegial support, prayer and displacement.

Healthcare systems in Africa have always been under a lot of strain. For Oleribe, Momoh, Uzochukwu and Mbofana (2019), the main challenges are inadequate human resources, inadequate budgetary allocation, and poor leadership and management. These challenges are accentuated by a heavy disease burden like HIV and AIDS, which has undoubtedly worsened under the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic exposed flaws in the public purchasing of medical supplies, revealing countless failures and a lack of adherence to procurement principles. In their article, the nexus between public procurement and administrative efficiency in the health sector in Tanzania, Vuai and Kamugisha argue that the public procurement function has not been accorded the requisite attention as one of the imperative catalysts for promoting administrative efficiency. This is even though the government of Tan-

zania has comprehensive procurement policies, legislations, and guidelines in place. Yet as Vuai and Kamugisha show adhering to public procurement principles or ethics increases administrative efficiency and enhanced delivery of health services. Governments will get value for money in the procurement of different requirements needed to provide health services if procurement principles are adhered to in the spirit of good governance.

Many governments have explored the use of digital technology in promoting good governance. Nath (2003) notes that the growing use of information and communication technology (ICT) catalyses the formation of knowledge societies, thus providing more significant avenues for people to participate in their development process. For Falco & Kleinhans (2018), many examples of digital participatory platforms are available and ready to use for governments and citizens. Solomon and KIyton (2020) show that social media and ICTs in government-citizen interaction are significant for economic growth in Africa. Linje, Thakathi and Maramura provide further insight in this regard. They report on a study that examined the councillors' undertakings to understand and embrace the implementation of digital governance in enabling digitally enhanced consultation and decision-making methods in selected Tanzania municipalities. Their study showed minimal levels of utilising digital technology and a lack of online undertakings, e-meetings, and social network discussions. The survey by Linje, Thakathi and Maramura implies that digital governance is still limited in some municipalities due to an absence of practical experiences on the councillors. Considering the critical role of local councillors in social development and economic growth, governments should devise workable frameworks within which councillors can increase their agility in digital technologies.

The next paper in this issue of Loyola Social Journal Sciences is an opinion piece by Goel. Goel's opinions come to us against the backdrop of the just concluded 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26). Goel believes that developed countries are major contributors to Green House gases- which is a leading cause of global warming and climate change. However, its impact is seen all over the globe. This being the case, Goel is emphatic that all the world countries should, in unison and collaboratively, implement policies to handle this problem collectively.

In conclusion, the devastation brought on by the pandemic has exposed us to weaknesses on numerous societal fronts. Our preparedness for disasters and pandemics is wanting – a situation exacerbated by climate change, our healthcare systems and procurement processes are weak, and our use of digital governance systems is not as spread

out as it could be. On a positive note, however, the pandemic has taught us that it is possible to act locally while thinking globally and that collaborative governance on all levels of society goes a long way in resolving problems of a communal nature.

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