



## EDITORIAL

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It gives me great pleasure to present Volume 10 of the *Journal of African Political Economy and Development (JAPED)*. Since its founding, JAPED has sought to provide a rigorous yet accessible forum for scholarship that engages with the structural, institutional, and intellectual challenges confronting Africa's economic transformation. This December 2025 issue is no exception. The four articles assembled here traverse the full breadth of the journal's mandate—from the architecture of global finance and the continent's place within it, through the domestic politics of development delivery, to the frontiers of regional trade integration and the untapped potential of agro-industrial value chains.

We open with a contribution that challenges the very foundations upon which sovereign debt discourse has been conducted. In "*Metanomics and the Obsolescence of Debt*," Alagidede introduces Metanomics—a new epistemology of finance that fuses energy, measured resources, and programmable governance—and its operational instrument, MetaFi, a blockchain-enabled, resource-backed framework for sovereign debt resolution. Through calibrated scenarios for Ghana, Zambia, and Ethiopia, the paper demonstrates that Africa's so-called debt crisis is less a matter of insolvency than of systemic extraction, and charts a path toward financial sovereignty for the Global South.

The second article turns the lens inward. Ayisi-Boateng's "*The 'Communication War': Narrative Hegemony and the Implementation Gap in Ghana's Fourth Republic*" draws on a mixed-methods study of 220 stakeholders to demonstrate how the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) have allowed adversarial propaganda to displace sustained policy implementation. The finding that both parties produce substantively convergent manifestos yet devote governance energy to discrediting each other is a sobering diagnosis—one that resonates well beyond Ghana.

Adjasi, Graham, and Odei Mensah shift the scale to the continental level in "*Implications of the African Continental Free Trade Area for Intra-African Trade*." Employing a computable general equilibrium model calibrated with GTAP data, they document that the AfCFTA can deliver intra-regional trade gains of at least 30 per cent in value-added sectors such as textiles, light manufacturing, and processed food—while also identifying the distributional asymmetries that policymakers must address to ensure the agreement's benefits are widely shared.

We close with Quartey's "*The Economics and Commercial Potential of Mushrooms: A Review of Ghana's Mushroom Industry and Its Intersections with Allied Sectors*." This article makes a compelling case that the mushroom value chain—intersecting agriculture, pharmaceuticals, waste management, textiles, and hospitality—represents a frontier of agro-industrial diversification whose policy implications extend well beyond Ghana to the wider West African sub-region.

Read together, these four articles affirm the conviction at the heart of this journal: that Africa's development challenges are neither intractable nor merely technical, but demand the kind of bold, interdisciplinary scholarship that refuses to accept inherited orthodoxies as settled truth. I commend this issue to our readers and trust it will provoke the rigorous debate that our continent's transformation demands.