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Labour Administration, Economic Development and Democratic Participation in Africa

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ABSTRACT The development question is still a major issue in contemporary Africa. The fact that there has not been any qualitative change in the lives of the vast majority of the people has made many interested observers to wonder if the various countries have adopted the right development strategy. It is against this background that this paper examined the role of the labour administration system in facilitating the development process. It was observed that in spite of the centrality of the employment relationship and the actors therein to the generation of national wealth necessary for ensuring development, labour administrators are not accorded a pride of place in the scheme of things. The paper then argued that there is no way Africa can make progress if those with the right expertise and who are key to the development process are excluded. It is then concluded that if Africa is to make progress, the development process must be people-centred and this is only possible if a broad spectrum of the African society, including the system of labour administration, is involved in formulating the content and direction of development and this in itself is in the spirit of democratic participation.