The deployment of law in public administration under Ecuadorian law
El despliegue del derecho en la administración pública según la legislación ecuatoriana

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ABSTRACT
In Ecuador’s complex legal and administrative scenario, the convergence between the principles of law and efficiency in public administration presents itself as a fascinating ballet. Good administration emerges as the choreography that guides the state's movements, where the duality of protecting individual rights and seeking collective welfare becomes a constant challenge. Ecuadorian legislation, far from being static, adapts like a living organism to the changing needs of a diverse society. Public administration, more than a mechanical execution of laws, is revealed as an art that requires ethical balance and adaptability. Transparency, citizen participation and accountability strengthen legitimacy, while the right to good administration, though challenging in its precise definition, manifests itself as the inspirational muse in this juridical-administrative dance.

Descriptors: public administration; law enforcement; administration of justice. (Source: UNESCO Thesaurus).

RESUMEN
En el complejo escenario legal y administrativo de Ecuador, la convergencia entre los principios del derecho y la eficiencia en la administración pública se presenta como un fascinante ballet. La buena administración emerge como la coreografía que guía los movimientos del Estado, donde la dualidad de proteger derechos individuales y buscar el bienestar colectivo se convierte en un desafío constante. La legislación ecuatoriana, lejos de ser estática, se adapta como un organismo vivo a las necesidades cambiantes de una sociedad diversa. La administración pública, más que una ejecución mecánica de leyes, se revela como un arte que requiere equilibrio ético y adaptabilidad. La transparencia, participación ciudadana y rendición de cuentas fortalecen la legitimidad, mientras que el derecho a la buena administración, aunque desafiante en su definición precisa, se manifiesta como la musa inspiradora en esta danza jurídico-administrativa.

Descriptores: administración pública; aplicación de la ley; administración de justicia. (Fuente: Tesauro UNESCO).

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Letter to the editor
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The confluence between the legal framework and public administration in the Ecuadorian regulatory framework emerges as a vast and challenging territory. By immersing ourselves in this exploration, we embark on a journey that unveils the intricate complexity and vital dynamics of the regulations that drive public administration in Ecuador.

Public administration, far from being merely the mechanical execution of laws, reveals itself as an art that demands balance, ethics and adaptability. In this process, law plays the fundamental role of the foundation on which the structure of a just and efficient society is built. Exploring these legal horizons involves addressing the duality of protecting individual rights while pursuing collective welfare (Pérez-Yauli, et al. 2022).

In the complex Ecuadorian scenario, where cultural and geographic diversity adds additional layers of complexity, the deployment of law in public administration becomes a continuously evolving challenge. Ecuadorian law, rather than being static, reveals itself as a living organism that responds nimbly to the changing needs of society.

In this journey, we are faced with the imperative need to harmonise administrative efficiency with the safeguarding of fundamental rights. Transparency, citizen participation and accountability emerge as essential pillars to strengthen the legitimacy of public administration within the Ecuadorian legal framework.

As we delve into these legal horizons, it is imperative to remember that every administrative decision has a direct impact on the lives of citizens. Constant reflection on the coherence, equity and effectiveness of laws and their application in public administration becomes crucial to maintain a system that truly serves the society it represents.
Ultimately, the exploration of legal horizons in Ecuadorian public administration is not simply an academic exercise, but a collective responsibility. The convergence between law and public administration must be managed with sensitivity and a keen vision of the future, ensuring that these horizons continue to be a space where justice, equality and efficiency converge to build a more solid and equitable Ecuador.

Administrative activity is carried out through various public administration bodies, which are responsible for achieving the general interest or the common good. This activity, in its essence, is subject to the observance of principles that seek to delimit the power of the State, ensuring that it is exercised in a rational and moderate manner. In this context, the citizen or the administered is positioned as the focal point around which this activity revolves, principles enshrined both in the Constitution and in the Organic Administrative Code.

The general principles of law are essential guides that orient the interpretation of legal norms. In the administrative sphere, these principles constitute crucial criteria in directing the activity of public administration towards efficiency in the face of the needs and demands of society (Arana, 2017).

The right to good public administration arises as a safeguard of the fundamental rights of individuals in the face of possible abuses of state power in its activity or management. This right is materialised in the strengthening of mechanisms of public attention in favour of citizens, who are the beneficiaries of public services. To fulfil this purpose, it is imperative that public administration adheres to the constitutional guidelines of quality, warmth, effectiveness and efficiency, fundamentally serving the collective welfare (Linazasoro-Espinoza, & Cornejo-Martinez, 2020).

Despite the existence of clear norms in Ecuadorian law that support the right to good public administration, the lack of a precise and clear definition of its meaning and scope presents a challenge. This ambiguity hinders its understanding and effective application, generating significant implications for the citizen.

The right to good public administration, by considering aspects such as impartiality, fairness, reasonableness, motivation and principles such as objective service, proportionality, equality, effectiveness, efficiency, quality and good
faith, should be recognised as a constitutional guarantee, becoming synonymous with the protection of fundamental rights, contributing to their effective exercise and allowing the administration to be organised efficiently with the active participation of society (Ortiz, 2019).

In the field of public administration, the practical application of the principles of effectiveness and efficiency has led public servants to assume the role of representatives of the State, collaborating in the achievement of institutional goals and ensuring the provision of timely, permanent and quality services. In this order (Rodríguez-Cruz, 2020), he stresses the importance of administrative action, which must comply with the principles of effectiveness, efficiency, equity, social justice, honesty, transparency and accountability.

The right to good public administration is approached from three perspectives: as a principle, a right and an obligation, therefore, this right, in addition to being a constitutional right, constitutes a principle that directs the internal and external organisation of the administration, serving as a mandate for optimisation that includes staff ethics and transparency, as well as effectiveness, efficiency, impartiality and citizen participation (Panama, 2020).

The notion of good administration is closely related to good governance, emphasising coordination, cooperation and negotiation between different sectors of society. In contrast, maladministration is associated with non-compliance or violation of people's rights, leading to poor service delivery, corruption, paralysis of public services and infringement of rights. Correct action on the duties and responsibilities of those exercising administration is essential to avoid this scenario and to ensure good public administration, in line with the fundamental duty of the state to protect people's rights.

**Closing reflections**

In the legal conformity that characterises the deployment of law in public administration under Ecuadorian law, we find ourselves immersed in a fascinating ballet where the general principles of law dance with administrative efficiency, and
good administration stands as the choreography that guides the movements of the State.

This journey is not simply a theoretical exercise; it is a journey where legality intertwines with reality, and where public administration becomes the stage on which the fundamental rights of citizens are represented. In this complex scenario, the duality of protecting individual rights while pursuing collective welfare manifests itself as a constant challenge.

The legal framework, far from being a static set of norms, emerges as a living organism, adaptable to the changing needs of a diverse and geographically complex society such as Ecuador. Legislation is revealed as a genetic code in constant evolution, responding nimbly to the challenges and dynamics of a society in movement.

In this journey, public administration is presented as an art that goes beyond the mere mechanical execution of laws. It requires balance, ethics and a unique capacity to adapt. Transparency, citizen participation and accountability emerge as the necessary bridges to strengthen the legitimacy of public management. Efficient administration becomes the harmony that, when properly executed, ensures that justice and equality converge in a more solid and equitable Ecuador.

In this juridical-administrative spectacle, the citizen is positioned as the focal point, the main recipient of public activity. The general principles of law become the essential guides that orient this activity towards efficiency, always in tune with the needs and demands of Ecuadorian society.

The right to good public administration, as a principle, right and obligation, manifests itself as the inspiring muse that guides the dance of the administration. However, the lack of a clear and precise definition of its meaning and scope presents a challenge, a dance in which ambiguity can hinder understanding and effective application, generating significant implications for the citizen.

Good governance is not just a goal, but a constitutional commitment that must be recognised as a vital guarantee. In this legal dance, effectiveness and efficiency are
the steps that public servants must follow to meet institutional goals and deliver quality services. Coordination, cooperation and negotiation between the different sectors of society become the movements that dance in harmony with good governance.

Ultimately, this legal-administrative spectacle not only invites us to academic contemplation, but also poses a collective responsibility. The convergence between law and public management must be managed with sensitivity and vision, ensuring that this legal-administrative dance is a symphony that resonates in the hearts of citizens, building a fairer, more equitable and efficient Ecuador.

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