The Management University of Africa

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UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (SADS)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

MDE 514: PUBLIC POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 30TH JULY 2026

DURATION: 3 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 60

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **FOUR (4)** questions.
4. Question **ONE is compulsory.**
5. Answer any other **TWO** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **30 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided**

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE POLICY-MAKING PROCESS

Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a pivotal role in shaping public policy by acting as an essential link between citizens and government institutions. These organizations—which include non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community groups, trade unions, professional associations, and faith-based groups—are independent from the state and work to represent the interests and concerns of the broader public. Their involvement in policy-making is fundamental to democratic governance, as they help ensure that government decisions reflect the needs and aspirations of diverse communities.

One of the primary roles of civil society in policy-making is advocacy. CSOs advocate for the rights and interests of citizens, often highlighting issues that may be overlooked or underrepresented in mainstream political discourse. By conducting research, collecting data, and presenting evidence-based arguments, CSOs provide crucial information to policymakers, enabling them to make informed decisions that are responsive to real-world challenges. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, civil society groups in many countries played a critical role in monitoring government responses, advocating for vulnerable populations, and ensuring that relief efforts were equitable and effective. However, their potential was sometimes limited by top-down approaches from governments, which restricted meaningful engagement.

CSOs also contribute to policy-making through various mechanisms such as public consultations, advisory committees, participatory budgeting, and digital platforms for citizen input. These mechanisms allow for direct engagement between citizens and policymakers, fostering transparency, accountability, and legitimacy in governance. Open consultations and

public hearings enable stakeholders to scrutinize policy drafts, reducing information asymmetries and increasing compliance with new regulations. Furthermore, civil society organizations often act as watchdogs, monitoring government actions and holding officials accountable for their decisions. This oversight function is vital for preventing corruption and ensuring that public resources are ued efficiently and fairly.

The diversity of civil society organizations ensures that a wide range of voices—including those of marginalized and vulnerable groups—are represented in the policy process. By incorporating public opinion, local knowledge, and expertise, CSOs strengthen representative democracy and help build social capital and trust in institutions. For instance, in participatory budgeting initiatives, citizens are directly involved in allocating municipal funds, which leads to more equitable and effective use of public resources.

Despite their significant contributions, civil society organizations face numerous challenges in influencing policy. Hostile political environments, limited financial and technical resources, and weak networking among CSOs can impede their effectiveness. To overcome these barriers, CSOs must build stronger coalitions, develop evidence-based advocacy strategies, and improve their communication with policymakers. Institutionalized dialogues and genuine participation beyond mere consultation are essential for ensuring that civil society’s role in governance is meaningful and impactful.

In conclusion, civil society is indispensable to the policy-making process. It enhances democratic legitimacy, promotes accountability and transparency, and ensures that policy decisions are informed by the needs and perspectives of the people they affect. By fostering partnerships between government and civil society, societies can achieve more inclusive, effective, and sustainable governance.

Required:

a) From the case study, describe some key mechanisms through which civil society engages with government in policy-making. Illustrate what challenges civil society organizations face in influencing policy, and how they can overcome them.

(10 Marks)

b) Explain why the diversity of civil society organizations is important for the policy-making process.

(10 Marks)

c) Analyze how civil society organizations contribute to the transparency and accountability of government policy-making.

(10 Marks)

QUESTION TWO

a) Discuss the stages in the decision-making process as applied to public policy analysis.

(9 Marks)

b) Expound on the major theories of public policy and their relevance in understanding policy-making processes. **(6 Marks)**

QUESTION THREE

a) Using examples, examine how government interventions shape public policy and the implications for democracy.

(10 Marks)

b) Explain the main typologies or instruments of public policy, concerning the role of bureaucracy in policy implementation.

(5 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR

a) Discuss the role of policy paradigms in shaping public policy, and explain how globalization has influenced policy history and policy

change. Use examples to illustrate your answer.

(6 Marks)

b) Explain the role and objectives of macroeconomic stabilization policy in promoting economic development.

(5 Marks)

c) Discuss the main tools used to achieve macroeconomic stability and how these policies contribute to sustainable growth and poverty reduction. **(4 Marks)**