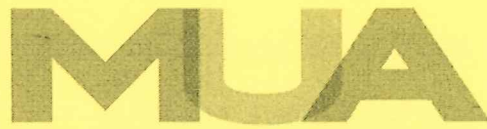


The
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POST GRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

MDE 514: PUBLIC POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 10TH DECEMBER 2024

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:

INTRODUCTION TO GROUP THEORY

According to the group theory of politics, public policy is the product of the group struggle. What may be called public policy is the equilibrium reached in this group struggle at any given moment, and it represents a balance which the contending factions or groups constantly strive to win in their favour. Many public policies do reflect the activities of groups (Anderson, 1997). This means that this theory attempts to analyse how each of the various groups in a society tries to influence public policy to its advantage at the policy formulation level. In other words, the central practice of this model is that interaction among groups is a critical ingredient in politics. Public policy is thus a temporary point of compromise reached in the course of competition between mosaics of numerous interest groups with cross-cutting membership. The ability of the group that is favoured at one point to sustain its gain depends on its power to counteract the powers of other groups that would make efforts to tilt decisions to their favour. It is this type of competition between groups that determine pattern of allocation of societal resources (Enemuo, 1999: 24).

The locus of power in the society changes from time to time, depending upon the group that succeeds in exerting its own supremacy over the others. Accordingly, the power to determine policy direction changes with the changes in the fortunes of each or a combination of these groups. It is in appreciating the fluidity of power base in society that Latham contends that what we regard as public policy is in reality a temporary equilibrium reached in the course of the inter-group struggle (Latham, 1965). As soon as the equilibrium point is altered in the favour of new groups another policy will emerge or the old policy will be modified.

Politics in essence entails a dynamic equilibrium created by the struggle between different groups. In Latham's opinion the legislature acts only as a referee to the inter-group struggle and it ratifies the victories of the successful coalitions, as well as record the terms of the surrender, compromises, and conquest in the form of statutes or Bills (Latham, 1965). Since the power to dominate policy decision is dependent on group

solidarity and power, the dynamics of the policy process is expected to be more vibrant and fierce in plural societies than in homogenous ones.

In such societies the ability of a group to tilt the policy to its favour depends on a number of factors, prominent among which are Wealth, Organizational skill Leadership quality, Bargaining skill. Access to decision-makers or in Nigerian parlance "connection. A modicum of luck Wealth is essential because political mobilisation is resource absorbing. All over the world, even in the most democratic societies, politics involves a lot of expenditure; as such only the wealthy can afford to mobilise the electorate and those in authority to tilt decisions in their favour. Wealth alone without organisational skills will render a group ineffective. It is the ability to conceive of ideas and get people to subscribe to such ideas that can get a group or person to succeed in tilting policy decision in its favour. In contemporary period, organisational skill requires the tack of bringing all stakeholders on board in the process of policy decision. For example, the group that attempts to mobilise the public in order to push its ideas would have to be tactful in main-streaming various interest groups such as the women, youth, professional groups and, in some cases, traditional rulers. Central to organisation ability in mobilising the public is leadership. Without a concrete rallying focal.

Required:

- a) In relations to the case explain public policy according to the group theory of politics. (9 Marks)
- b) Examine any three Latham's opinion on the subject of politics. (6 Marks)
- c) Describe five factors that enable a group to tilt the policy to its favour. (15 Marks)

QUESTION TWO

- a) Using examples, explain democracy as a realization of public sovereignty. (8 Marks)
- b) Discuss five importance of defining the ideas of Procedural policies. (7 Marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a) Using examples, describe Simon's satisficing decision-making model. (6 Marks)
- b) Globalization policy is said to hurt Africa most. As an expert in the subject matter of policy analysis. Advise the Africa continent on the available techniques of converting policy proposals into a policy. (9 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Expound on the contribution of civil society where there are non-democratic governments. (5 Marks)
- b) Explain five (5) roles of bureaucracy in policy making. (10 Marks)