



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2014/2015

DIGITAL SCHOOL OF VIRTUAL AND OPEN LEARNING

SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF

PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

AMC 800: RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

DATE: Tuesday, 28th April, 2015

TIME: 2.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Attempt question **ONE (Compulsory)** and any other **TWO**.

Question One : (30 marks)

Read the case study below, and answer the questions that follow.

Devolution in Kenya was touted as a solution to development inequalities in Kenya. The citizens believed every aspect of the Constitution that the creation of the County Government would bring services closer to them, enhance access to leaders and ultimately achieve development at a faster rate. The performance of these Counties has recently become a subject of discussion for every Kenyan. It has been close to 3 years since, but tangible results are not evident with blame game between National and County Governments and institutions thereof increasing by the day. County Governments have not established its foot in revenue collection, legislative agenda is yet to take root with the County Assemblies having been grounded by the pull and push for higher pay by the members, minimal capacity of the MCAs to legislate and debate Bills and County residents developing apathy towards their Counties. The Council of Governors is concerned with this and has instituted a research in which you are the lead person.

INVOLVEMENT IN ANY EXAMINATION IRREGULARITY SHALL LEAD TO **DISCONTINUATION**

- a) Suggest a possible and most appropriate title that this research can take. (2 marks)
- b) Write down an appropriate statement of the problem. (4 marks)
- c) Outline any **FOUR** specific objectives that the study will take. (4 marks)
- d) Provide FOUR alternative research hypotheses that the study will seek to answer. (2 marks)
- e) Draw a schematic diagram of a conceptual framework that the research will adopt as it seeks to address the outlined objectives in (c) above. (4 marks)
- f) Choose an appropriate research design that the study will adopt and explain why you choose the design. (3 marks)
- g) Outline the sampling design that the study will adopt and explain the reasons why such a sampling design was taken. (4 marks)
- h) What would be the most appropriate data analysis technique that can be employed for this study? Why do you think so? (4 marks)
- i) What would be the most likely limitations of this study? Outline the delimitations that you would put in place. (3 marks)

Question Two : (20 marks)

- a) Compare and contrast interviews and questionnaires as data collections tools. (10 marks)
- b) Why have case studies become common in research? (5 marks)
- c) Distinguish between quantitative design from qualitative one. (5 marks)

Question Three : (20 marks)

- a) Distinguish between probability sampling from non-probability sampling. (15 marks)
- b) What techniques can a researcher apply in order to enhance a higher response rate? (5 marks)

Question Four : (20 marks)

- a) Using suitable examples, explain why ethical standards are very vital in any research activity. (10 marks)
- b) Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Cluster sampling
 - b) Informed consent
 - c) Reliability
 - d) Focus Group Discuss

(10 marks)