



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, PEACE, LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

NPSM522: DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

APRIL 2022

LECTURER: DR TAWANDA NYIKADZINO

DURATION: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This paper contains **five** questions.
2. Answer three questions.
3. Answer question **1** in section A and any other **2** questions from section B.
4. Start each question on a new page.

SECTION A (COMPULSORY)

1. Decentralisation is a popular but often misunderstood and confused concept. To make matters worse, countries tend to develop their country-specific definitions of decentralisation. Consequently, decentralisation in Zimbabwe, for instance, is different from decentralisation in Botswana. As a Decentralisation and Local Governance expert, you have been engaged by your local authority to make a presentation on the conceptualisation of decentralisation. How would you respond? In your response, discuss the different types (deconcentration, delegation and devolution) and fundamental configurations of decentralisation (administrative, fiscal and political). Use illustrative examples. **[40 marks]**

SECTION B

2. With the aid of empirical examples from any **two** African countries of your choice, highlight the factors hampering effective local service delivery. Using the knowledge garnered from this course, which strategies do you recommend for addressing those challenges. **[30 marks]**
3. The transfer of unfunded mandates has significantly crippled effective service delivery in many African countries. Critically examine this assertion and proffer recommendations for enhancing the implementation of fiscal decentralisation in Africa. **[30 marks]**
4. Anchoring on examples from Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Botswana, discuss the following five measures of local government autonomy: local democracy; legislative powers; personnel administration powers; fiscal powers; substantive functions **[30 marks]**
5. Local government supervision is an indispensable component of any devolutionary reform programme. Implementing devolution without provisions for local government supervision is more like giving whisky and car keys to a teenager. However, balancing the need for supervision and local autonomy is a dilemma that many countries in Africa are grappling with. As a Decentralisation and Local Governance expert, discuss the central role of local government supervision and provide policy options for balancing supervision and local government autonomy. **[30 marks]**

END OF EXAMINATION
