

ADVANCED PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

THURSDAY: 25 April 2024. Morning Paper.

Answer ALL questions. Marks allocated to each question are shown at the end of the question. Do NOT write anything on this paper.

OUESTION ONE

Most countries have adopted public financial management system to implement different public policies, (a) particularly those related to fiscal discipline, allocative efficiency and operational efficiency.

Evaluate FIVE public policies that can be implemented using public financial management system. (5 marks)

(b) Debt has always been associated with development and structural transformation. With the current hyperglobalisation, debt has become a dominant driver of global growth. However, it has failed to deliver the desired objectives in productive investment, but instead fueled financial speculation. Developing countries have seen debt transformed from a long-term financing instrument to help achieve their future growth potential into a potentially high-risk financial asset subject to the notions of international financial markets and proliferating short-term creditor interests. Since the global financial crisis, economies around the world have become dependent on debt for their growth. This has encouraged unprecedented global indebtedness, particularly in emerging markets and developing countries which have little control over global trends. It is argued that, within the global financial system, developing countries have limited number of choices and proposals for regional and inter-regional monetary and financial cooperation and reliance on directed development banking are set out as a place to start.

Required:

- Analyse FIVE challenges faced by developing countries in their debt sustainability efforts. (i) (5 marks)
- (ii) Evaluate FIVE indicators that developing countries adopt in assessing their debt sustainability. (5 marks)
- (c) Public Financial Management (PFM) reforms aim to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public financial systems, ensuring accountability and transparency in the use of public resources. Countries must implement effective policy measures if the reforms are to achieve the intended objectives.

Advise your government on FIVE strategies that can be adopted to ensure the effectiveness of the PFM reforms. (5 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

Time Allowed: 3 hours.

OUESTION TWO

The Minister in charge of treasury in your country is in the process of introducing performance measurement framework that will be used to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of government programmes, projects and activities in achieving their intended objectives.

Assess FOUR critical dimensions of performance that the performance measurement framework should focus on in public financial management systems. (8 marks)

International best practices recommend that governments should publish eight budget reports at various points in (b) the budget cycle. Increasingly, governments, donors and civil society organisations demand for more information on why these particular reports are important, what a model report should contain to be considered transparent and when these reports should be published. However, there are few existing reference materials that answer these questions. Development banks and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have published manuals containing detailed information on public finance management systems, but the existing literature is neither tailored to the needs of a broad audience nor does it fully explore the issues of transparency in these reports.

For instance, in 2002 the OECD published best practices for budget transparency as a reference tool to increase the degree of budget transparency in member countries. These practices are also relevant for non-OECD countries but countries adopting them are expected to tailor these practices to individual countries.

In relation to the above statement, analyse **EIGHT** budget reports that should be prepared and their respective purpose. (8 marks)

(c) In the context of public financial management, identify **FOUR** main forms of receipts that occur in development estimates as per Public Financial Management regulation 60. (4 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- (a) Describe **FOUR** ways in which management of public debt enhances fiscal stability and economic growth in your country. (8 marks)
- (b) Assess **FOUR** ways through which the Treasury Single Account (TSA) system facilitates the consolidation of government funds from various sources and accounts into a single centralised account. (8 marks)
- (c) Managing revenue in public finance at the county level can be a complex task and executive committee members responsible for this area face several challenges.

In light of this statement, outline FOUR ways in which executive committee members of finance can address these challenges. (4 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

(a) The Ministry of Finance in your country has tasked you with the responsibility of evaluating the performance of several key state corporations operating in critical sectors such as energy, transportation and healthcare. The government is keen on ensuring that these entities effectively deliver on their mandate and contribute to national development. Over the years, you have observed that monitoring performance of state corporations can be challenging. As an expert in this area, you have been invited to be the key note speaker at a national conference on public sector effectiveness to speak on challenges in evaluating performance of state corporations and way forward.

Required:

Develop your presentation on this topic covering the following areas:

- (i) FIVE reasons for monitoring performance of state corporations. (5 marks)
- (ii) FIVE challenges faced by your country in monitoring performance of state corporations. (5 marks)
- (b) Explain **FOUR** ways in which Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) in your country contributes to fiscal policy discipline. (4 marks)
- (c) Describe **THREE** reasons for the establishment of an internal audit committee in the management of public funds in your country. (6 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

OUESTION FIVE

(a) The national audit reports of your country have consistently raised a major concern about poor management of public funds at the National Government level which emanates from poor cash management. In one of the reports, the Auditor General recommended that the government should strictly comply with Public Financial Management regulations on cash management. To this extent, the national treasury has appointed you to facilitate a training for accounting officers on institutionalising effective and efficient banking and cash management practices in the public sector.

As a public financial management expert, describe **FIVE** principles to be included in your presentation that should guide cash management system as per the Public Financial Management regulations. (10 marks)

- (b) Outline **FOUR** specific functions of the Commission of Revenue Allocation regarding county government revenue management in your country. (4 marks)
- (c) Explain **THREE** factors contributing to successful Public Financial Management (PFM) reforms in enhancing fiscal transparency, accountability and efficiency in your country. (6 marks)

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ADVANCED PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

THURSDAY: 24 August 2023. Morning Paper.

Answer ALL questions. Marks allocated to each question are shown at the end of the question. Do NOT write anything on this paper.

QUESTION ONE

- (a) In relation to the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Regulations 2020, outline **FIVE** methods that an accounting officer of a procuring entity may use to dispose assets. (5 marks)
- (b) Most developing countries continue to face challenges in managing public finances effectively. The public financial management (PFM) systems of developing countries are faced by complexities and issues associated with the three key pillars of PFM which are; budget formulation and execution, revenue mobilisation, and expenditure control.

Required:

Evaluate **THREE** challenges facing the PFM systems in your country under each of the above pillars of PFM and suggest practical solutions for each challenge. (9 marks)

(c) The Public Finance Management Regulations, 2015 and Gazette Notice No. 2690 on Audit Committee Guidelines for County Governments outlines how the audit committee should relate with different levels of management.

Analyse THREE roles of the audit committee in relation with the line management as per the guidelines. (6 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

OUESTION TWO

- (a) Outline **THREE** provisions relating to winding up of a national government public fund as established by Article 209 of the PFM regulations. (3 marks)
- (b) Countries undertake a number of infrastructural projects as part of their long-term development initiatives. The projects are financed through borrowing from both the domestic market and the foreign market. This results to a situation where the country's largest financial portfolio is from the debt portfolio. This may lead to substantial risk to the government's finances thus affecting provision of essential public services to the citizens.
 - With reference to the above statement, evaluate SIX generally accepted global practices that could enhance effective public debt management. (12 marks)
- (c) Summarise **FIVE** provisions relating to accounting and reporting of donations and grants to national government as provided by Article 74 of the PFM regulations. (5 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

Time Allowed: 3 hours.

OUESTION THREE

(a) The Auditor General is required to audit and report on certain institutions within six months after the end of each financial year as provided under Article 229 (4) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

With reference to the above provision, identify SIX such institutions.

(6 marks)

(b) According to Section 82 (4) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, not later than three months after the end of each financial year, a receiver of revenue for the national government shall submit to the Auditor-General a report with respect to all waivers and variations of taxes, fees or charges granted by the receiver or collector during that year.

With reference to the above provision, outline the details that the receiver shall include in his report in respect of each waiver or variation. (4 marks)

(c) During a public finance management seminar, one of the facilitators noted that "Every financial year, the National Assembly participates in the various critical activities in the budget cycle. The National Assembly is at the center of budget approval and oversight during the annual budget process. The National Assembly works with a host of institutions and the public to expedite its mandate of budget making, oversight of expenditure, and representation. Some of the main institutions involved include; The National Treasury, Auditor General, The Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), The Controller of Budget, and Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs)".

In relation to the above statement, summarise the role played by each of the five institutions mentioned above in relation to the budget process. (10 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

OUESTION FOUR

(a) The tender documents are required to set out the instructions for the preparations and submission of tenders as per Section 70 (6) of the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015.

In relation to the above provision, outline **FOUR** instructions for preparation and submission of tenders that should be included. (4 marks)

- (b) Describe **FOUR** functions of the State Corporations Advisory Committee (SCAC) or equivalent body in your country. (8 marks)
- (c) In a County Government workshop on management of revenues, one of the facilitators noted that "The main sources of revenue for county government include; equitable share own source revenue, conditional grants, and donor funding".

Required:

Explain each of the **FOUR** sources of revenue for county evernments mentioned above.

(8 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

OUESTION FIVE

(a) Most countries around the globe have set up the consolidated fund services (CFS). The specific structure and operations of CFS vary among countries, depending on their legal and institutional frameworks.

In relation to the above statement, chalyse FIVE functions that the CFS helps the government of a country to perform. (10 marks)

(b) The recent advancements in technology and innovation offer opportunities for reforming public financial management (PFM) in developing countries and could be a key solution to overcoming most of the challenges faced by these countries in public financial management.

With reference to the above statement, discuss **FIVE** ways in which developing countries could leverage on technology and innovation in order to improve public financial management (PFM) practices. (10 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

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ADVANCED PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

THURSDAY: 27 April 2023. Morning Paper.

Time Allowed: 3 hours.

Answer ALL questions. Marks allocated to each question are shown at the end of the question. Do NOT write anything on this paper.

QUESTION ONE

(a) In a Public Private Partnerships (PPP) workshop, one of the facilitator's noted that "there are different types of PPP arrangements which include; build operate transfer (BOT), build transfer operate (BTO), and design build finance operate (DBFO) among others".

Explain each of the public private partnership arrangements (PPP) mentioned above.

(6 marks)

(b) In managing complex and specialised procurement contracts under section 151 of the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, the accounting officer of a procuring entity should have in place a contract implementation team that should be in charge of reviewing contract performance and preparing status reports.

Required:

- (i) Summarise **THREE** areas of the contract that the contract implementation team could review and report on. (3 marks)
- (ii) Analyse **FOUR** contract risks that the contract implementation team could monitor and report on in their status report. (4 marks)
- One of the public financial management reforms undertaken by the Government of Kenya is the implementation and operationalisation of the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMIS) which continuously aims at enhancing accountability and transparency.

Required:

(i) Identify **THREE** key components of the IFMIS.

(3 marks)

(ii) Explain **FOUR** challenges faced by the government in its effort to streamline the operationalisation of the IFMIS. (4 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

QUESTION TWO

(a) Accounting officers may seek supplementary budgets by preparing supplementary budget estimates which should be within the guidelines of the supplementary budget circular and in conformity with budget guidelines issued by the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury.

Required:

- (i) Highlight **TWO** purposes for which a supplementary budget may be sought by accounting officers. (2 marks)
- (ii) Explain **FIVE** matters that might be included in the supplementary budget estimates as per the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2015. (5 marks)

(b) Accounting Officers or receivers of revenue should prepare quarterly reports in respect of revenue collected by their entities not later than the 15th day after the end of the quarter.

Required:

Analyse TWO contents of these quarterly reports.

(2 marks)

(c) The Public Investment Committee is responsible for the examination of the working of the public investments.

Required:

Summarise **THREE** matters that the Committee may not deal with in course of its work.

(3 marks)

(d) A case study examined public funds mismanagement during emergencies such as Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, where the data established that, despite robust policies and legal framework in most countries, misuse of public funds set aside for emergencies or contingencies continue to thrive unabated.

Required:

As a public finance management expert, recommend **FOUR** measures that could be adopted to enhance the accountability, transparency and effectiveness of public fund management during emergencies. (8 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

QUESTION THREE

(a) County Treasuries are required to prepare a County Budget Review and Outlook Paper in respect of the county for each financial year.

Required:

Evaluate **FOUR** specific matters that must be included in the County Budget Review and Outlook Paper as per Section 118 of the Public Finance Management Act. (8 marks)

(b) The implementation of Public Financial Management best practices continues to face different hurdles especially those arising from the legislature. Some of the newly elected members of National Assembly might not understand their role in the Public Financial Management cycle.

Required:

Analyse FOUR roles of the legislature in respect public Financial Management (PFM) cycle.

(8 marks)

(c) Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest) is a statutory body established in the year 2004 and currently operating through an Act of Parliament (Investment Promotion Act No. 6 of 2004).

Required:

Discuss TWO core mandates of this Authority.

(4 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

(a) Explain the term "treasury single account (TSA)" as provided by the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, in relation to:

(i) National government.

(2 marks)

(ii) County government.

(2 marks)

(b) During a conference on *Comprehensive Own Source Revenue Potential and Tax Gap Study of County Governments*, the key note speaker noted that "County governments have the potential to collect up to Sh. 216 billion in revenue from their key revenue streams compared to the present Sh. 31 billion annually and as such each county government should work closely with the Revenue Enhancement Committee at the office of Commission on Revenue Allocation to boost its financial standing.

Required:

- (i) Evaluate **FOUR** responsibilities of the Revenue Enhancement Committee as mandated by Commission on Revenue Allocation. (8 marks)
- (ii) Propose **FOUR** challenges faced by county governments that have led to sub-optimal performance in respect to own source revenue collection. (8 marks)

OUESTION FIVE

- (a) Pursuant to Regulation 74 of the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Regulations, 2020, upon opening of tenders, the evaluation committee should first conduct a preliminary evaluation.
 - With reference to the above provision, outline FIVE reasons for conducting preliminary evaluation of open tenders. (5 marks)
- (b) Discuss FIVE functions of the Debt Recording and Settlement Department of the National Treasury. (5 marks)
- (c) According to the Public Audit Act, 2015. The Office of Auditor General (OAG) while conducting its audit function is required to undertake different types of public sector audits.

With reference to the above statement, explain **FIVE** types of public sector audits that OAG is required to undertake.

(Total: 20 marks)

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ADVANCED PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

THURSDAY: 8 December 2022. Morning Paper.

Answer ALL questions. Marks allocated to each question are shown at the end of the question. Do NOT write anything on this paper.

QUESTION ONE

(a) In a research publication on "Systemic Corruption and Public Procurement in Developing Countries", the author noted that "Corruption in public procurement affects development and quality of life of citizens in developing countries. The increase in anti-corruption measures globally reflects a consensus that corruption is pervasive and expensive. Public procurement is one area that is prone to corruption due to the huge sums of money involved; the availability of information; and the bureaucratic nature of decision-making, which together present opportunities for abuse. In developing countries, procurement corruption is prevalent because of institutional weaknesses, lack of enforced accountability mechanisms and a culture of silence in relation to public sector malfeasance".

Required:

In the context of the above statement

- (i) Discuss **FIVE** public procurement corruption schemes that an accounting officer should take cognisance of. (10 marks)
- (ii) When the accounting officer of a procuring entity discovers circumstances that could affect the credibility of the procurement process, he is empowered by the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act to terminate or cancel procurement or asset disposal proceedings without entering into a contract.
 - Summarise FIVE circumstances under which the accounting officer is empowered to terminate or cancel procurement or asset disposal proceedings as per the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act or equivalent legislation. (5 marks)
- (b) There is an ever-closer focus on improving the quality of public financial management around the world, with many countries making important and impressive achievements in strengthening public financial management.

Explore FIVE challenges faced by your country in the implementation of public financial management best practices. (5 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

Time Allowed: 3 hours.

QUESTION TWO

(a) The National Treasury is established pursuant to Article 225 of the Constitution or equivalent legislation as an entity of the national government to help the government discharge the public financial management responsibilities.

Describe **EIGHT** responsibilities of The National Treasury as enshrined in the Constitution. (8 marks)

- (b) The Cabinet Secretary is empowered to guarantee loans of a county government or any other borrower on behalf of the national government and ensure that such a loan is approved by Parliament.
 - Identify **SIX** conditions to be met in order for the Cabinet Secretary to guarantee such loans as per Section 58 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 or equivalent legislation. (6 marks)
- (c) Explain the responsibilities of the Senate Budget Committee in public finance matters as per relevant legislations.

(6 marks)

QUESTION THREE

(a) Analyse **TWO** types of expenditure that are included in the consolidated fund services.

(4 marks)

(b) The Public Investment Management Unit was established at The National Treasury to reduce overlaps in government programs, curb runaway project costs and help to improve the quality of life for citizens.

Discuss **FOUR** roles of the Public Investment Management Unit or its equivalent as mandated by the National Treasury. (8 marks)

(c) Most developing and transition countries have devoted an unprecedented level of attention to the reform of public financial management systems. The results have been mixed with some exceptions, reform progress has been slow and the benefits elusive. Nevertheless, some countries have been more successful in implementing public financial management reforms than others.

Evaluate **FOUR** critical factors needed by developing countries for successful public financial management reforms. (8 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

OUESTION FOUR

(a) The Head of Internal Audit Unit under a national government entity should enjoy operational independence through the reporting structure by reporting administratively to the Accounting Officer and functionally to the Audit Committee.

Required:

- (i) Analyse **FOUR** measures that should be undertaken by the accounting officer of a national government entity to enhance the independence of the internal audit unit. (4 marks)
- (ii) The audit committee plays a key role in supporting and overseeing aspects of an internal audit function's activities.

Summarise SIX roles of the audit committee in ensuring that the internal audit function performs effectively and delivers its mandate. (6 marks)

(b) In an annual conference held in your country on "Closing the gaps in budget execution", the keynote speaker observed that the importance of budget execution is reflected in its contribution to economic growth. He added that efficient and effective use of public funds improves the capability of governments and its systems to utilise resources that achieve growth and development targets.

Required:

In line with the above observation:

- (i) Discuss the guidelines that should be observed at all times during the national government budget formulation and approval. (6 marks)
- (ii) Describe **TWO** matters that should be provided for in the Appropriation Bills. (4 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

OUESTION FIVE

(a) The Public Audit Act 2015 empowers the Auditor-General to outsource audit services from duly registered audit firms.

Analyse **SIX** provisions of Section 23 of The Public Audit Act 2015 or its equivalent in relation to outsourcing audit services. (6 marks)

(b) The Cabinet Secretary for The National Treasury has the responsibility of prescribing the format to be used in preparing the estimates of revenues for a particular fiscal year.

Analyse the matters that should be included in the format of estimate of revenues as provisioned by Section 59 of the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2020 or its equivalent. (5 marks)

(c) Evaluate **THREE** types of funds administered by county governments as provisioned by the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 or its equivalent. (9 marks)



ADVANCED PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

THURSDAY: 4 August 2022. Morning paper.

Time Allowed: 3 hours.

Answer ALL questions. Marks allocated to each question are shown at the end of the question. Do NOT write anything on this paper.

OUESTION ONE

(a) Government Investments and Public Enterprises (GIPE) is a department in the National Treasury and Planning that helps the Cabinet Secretary to exercise the oversight and ownership role in State corporations and other government investments. This department discharges its mandate through the Divisions of Monitoring and Supervision, Reforms and Finance and Administration.

Required:

- (i) With clear examples, describe ways in which the Government Investments and Public Enterprises (GIPE) assists the Cabinet Secretary to carry out the oversight and ownership role in state corporations and other Government investments. (6 marks)
- Discuss the functions of the Public Private Partnership Committee as envisioned in the Public Private Partnership Act, 2021 or its equivalent legislation in your country. (6 marks)
- (b) The Public Finance Management Act, 2012 allows the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Planning with the approval of the Cabinet to make a public pronouncement of the budget policy highlights and revenue raising measures for the National Government to set pace for the budget preparation for the year.

Required:

Analyse the steps followed by the National Government in preparation of the annual budget.

(8 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

OUESTION TWO

(a) The office of the Auditor General is tasked with auditing and reporting in respect to a particular year on the accounts of the National and County Governments, all funds and authorities, all Courts Commissions, Independent offices, National Assembly, senate and accounts of all County Governments among other public entities. However, a report prepared by Transparency International reveals that the audit process has critical gaps that affect the efficiency of the audit, quality of audit reports and implementation of the recommendations that emanate from the audit process.

Required:

Discuss five challenges faced by the Auditors General in auditing public sector entities.

(5 marks)

(b) The Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury and Planning is empowered to designate persons as receivers of national government revenue under Article 209 (1), (2) and (4) of the Constitution.

Summarise three responsibilities of a person designated as a receiver of revenue.

(3 marks)

(c) Describe the main provisions of Section 96 of Public Finance Management Regulations 2015 in regard to operations of Treasury Single Account in Kenya. (12 marks)

OUESTION THREE

(a) Accounting officers of procuring entities are in charge of preparing annual assets disposal plans of items declared as unserviceable, surplus or obsolete stores, assets or equipment and also appoint the disposal committee as set out under Section 53(4) of the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act and Regulations, 2020.

Required:

(i) Explain the main contents of the annual assets disposal plan.

(4 marks)

(ii) Discuss the key functions performed by a procuring entity's Asset Disposal Committee.

(6 marks)

(b) In one of the monthly virtual talk series organised by Public Finance experts in the country dubbed "Is the Country's Public Debt Sustainable?", the experts noted that the country's debt level may not be sustainable in the long run if the current trend of borrowing continues. The experts urged the government to put in place mechanisms that will ensure prudent public debt management to cushion citizens from the adverse effect that may result from excessive borrowing. Specifically, the experts advised the government to strengthen the Debt Policy, Strategy and Risk Management Department at the National Treasury and Planning.

Required:

- (i) As a public finance management expert, advise the government on the specific functions that the Debt Policy, Strategy and Risk Management department should carry out in order to ensure that the country's public debt level is sustainable. (6 marks)
- (ii) Discuss the concept of Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy as used in public debt management.

(4 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

OUESTION FOUR

Your country has undertaken public financial management reform initiatives and currently is working on implementation of 2018-2023 Public Financial Management Reform Strategy. This strategy seeks to build on the success of previous public financial management reforms to date and address the challenges encountered.

Required:

- (i) Analyse the objectives of the Public Financial Management Reform Initiatives undertaken in your country.

 (6 marks)
- (ii) Describe the challenges faced by the government in undertaking public financial management reforms.

 (4 marks)
- (b) Public Financial Management Regulations require Internal Auditors to comply with the International Professional Practices Framework and Accounting Standards Board Policies and Guidelines to conduct audits. The internal auditors should also adhere to the core principles which ensure internal audit effectiveness.

Required:

- (i) Discuss the functions carried out by the office of the Internal Auditor-General at the National Treasury and Planning. (6 marks)
- (ii) Summarise four core principles for professional practice of internal auditing as application in the public sector. (4 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

OUESTION FIVE

(a) The budget policy statement sets out the broad Strategic priorities and policy goals that guide the national and county government in budget preparation for the subsequent financial year and over the medium term.

Required:

Explain the contents of the Budget Policy Statement.

(8 marks)

(b) Public Financial Management Processes and tasks are very complex and technical since they involve macroeconomic forecasting, budgeting, accounting and auditing. This complexity limits public scrutiny and provides possible avenues for corruption. In most instances, corruption manifests itself in form of illegal money transfers at the budget execution but can also occur during other stages of the public financial management process.

Required:

As an expert in public financial management, evaluate the possible avenues that public officers could use to perpetrate corrupt acts in the public financial management process and propose measures to counter them.

(12 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

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