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Dear Hiring Manager:

RE: RESEARCH ASSISTANT

I write to apply for Research Assistant at The World Bank. I have submitted my PhD thesis in Financial Economics at the **University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg** in South Africa, expecting to graduate in June 2022. Furthermore, I have over 15 years of experience in education, finance, research, data analysis and related roles that call for continuous learning. I aspire for a career involving the analysis of quantitative and qualitative data. Hence, the Research Assistant provides aligns with my career goals. In the next section, I describe my work experience that correlates highly with Research Assistant requirements.

I have worked extensively with data in my research work in all these roles. For instance, as a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) at Wits University for five years, I worked extensively with data from the **World Bank**, **IMF**, and other UN bodies. I also analysed data from the Microfinance Information Exchange (MIX), Bloomberg and Bank Scope. I have also previously worked as a research assistant with the **Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)**, collecting and analysing qualitative and quantitative survey data. I am also comfortable leading **focus group discussions (FGDs)**.

I have advanced skills in **R programming** and **Ms Excel**, with sound working knowledge of **SQL**, **Stata** and **Eviews**. I am also well versed in **R Markdown** and version control using **Git** and **GitHub** and familiar with Big Data analytics ecosystems like **Hadoop**, **MapReduce**, and **Spark**. Further, I have skills in Financial Statements Analysis, Valuation, Capital Budgeting, and Economic Analysis.

I can explain the results of data analysis to a non-technical audience, given my background in education as a teacher and tutorial fellow. My seven articles in several newspapers attest to this capability, as do data projects on Rpubs (www.rpubs.com/Karuitha). I have also written three research articles and am currently working on three research papers from my PhD thesis.

I am currently in academia. However, I have previously held professional positions. At Twana Twitu Cares, an NGO, I was in charge of finance, writing financial reports for the management and donors (USAID and AMREF). I was the project manager at NECLI, a livelihoods improvement and environmental conservation community-based organisation, at the time, funded by the EU and DANIDA. In the latter role, I liaised with community members

to implement interventions that mitigate unsustainable exploitation of the environment, such as illegal logging and poaching of Sandalwood.

I am excited at the prospect of bringing my talents to The World Bank Office. At your earliest convenience, I look forward to hearing from you to discuss how my experience and qualifications will prove valuable in the Research Assistant role.

This statement of interest highlights how well my education and experience fits the Research Assistant role. I am sharing with you my resume for more details. My **LinkedIn** profile also expounds on my skills and work experience.

Best regards,

John Karuitha.