

Training and Human Capacity Building in the Land Sector in the Context of Implementation of New Land Policies and Reforms in Land Administration Systems: Some Reflections from Kenya

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SUMMARY

Many developing countries are reexamining their land administration systems with the objective of realigning them to address current challenges within their national contexts. At attainment of independence from colonial rule, many developing countries particularly those from Africa, maintained land administration systems that are deeply rooted in previous colonial systems but current trends indicate an increasing desire to introduce land reforms that address present-day citizen needs in a more effective manner. For effective implementation of land reforms and implementation of new land policies it is widely acknowledged that training and human capacity building are imperative. Various initiatives towards this objective have been launched by international organizations such as FIG, UN HABITAT, GLTN, FAO and a number of donor agencies such as SIDA, DFID, GIZ and JICA. Many training and human capacity initiatives in the land sector have tended to focus on training for specific projects or subsectors that donors deem to be priority areas. A recent study carried out in Kenya in 2011 has demonstrated the need for holistic and comprehensive sector-wide review of the training and human capacity assessment in the land sector as a precursor to design of training and human capacity building programs for effective implementation of new land policies and implementation of major land reforms. The study also revealed that the design of these programs is further complicated because it involves a multiplicity of trainees, training institutions, training programs, professional organizations and stakeholders and requires a clearly organized and structured approach for effective implementation. It is hoped that this paper will give a starting point for debate and useful feedback from interested professionals and organizations with regard to training and human capacity building in the land sector. Countries that are facing the same challenges as Kenya may also find some of the highlighted issues to be of benefit.