

Incorporating Governance, Sustainability, and Land Policy Issues into Land Surveyors Rules of Practice

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SUMMARY

Legislation related to cadastres and land administration is required to both upgrade the practice to take account of international standards and approaches and at the same time, provide rules that guide the practice that must be pragmatic and fit for purpose. Gradual upgrading and improvements are therefore necessary to allow both professionals and society to assimilate changes while incorporating goals that will redound to the benefit of all stakeholders.

The Trinidad and Tobago land surveyors rules had last been discussed and revised in 2012. Since then, the need for incorporating the LADM, SDGs, 3D cadastre, and fit for purpose requirements have become increasingly apparent. This paper charts the process of analysis, discussion and revision to the rules as the process is currently being undertaken in 2023. Existing pieces of legislation that depend on the land surveyors rules include the conveyancing, titling, and property valuation legislation. Therefore the methodology used for the revision of the rules included looking at the requirements of these pieces of legislation and performing analyses by not only looking at the letter of these laws but at the spirit of these laws to determine what would be beneficial to the country and the society. The rules were then amended and crafted to support an improved national land governance.

It was found that upgrading and updating rules did not necessarily mean increases in precisions for definition of parcels but instead meant predicting the need for including some LADM standards like 3D parcel volumes on cadastral plans. This has been, therefore, a practical application of the Framework for Effective Land Administration where legislation and standard are concerned. It is anticipated that revision periods will need to be contracted to shorter periods in the future to take account of rapid changes in global perspectives as well as leaps in opportunities provided by technology. New rules include the incorporation of cheaper and more standardised demarcation of

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property and requirements for provision of improved accessibility of cadastral data to the public.

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