

Supporting Capacity Development in Land Administration in Namibia: The NUST Experience

Menare Royal Mabakeng, Stephnie De Villiers, Celina Awala, Ase Christensen and Uchendu Eugene Chigbu (Namibia)

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SUMMARY

Land administration as an academic discipline provides professionals with access to vast knowledge, skills and tools on how to implement land administration for sustainable development. The reference to land administration was initially mentioned by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in 1996 and thus far various institutions around the world have applied it. Land Administration as a field of study covers important aspects with regards to understanding how information infrastructure can support the implementation and management of land tenure, land development, land valuation, use and planning within a legal framework, in order to promote efficient land management and effective land markets. With this in the tow-this study analysis, how the Department of Land And Property Sciences has been supporting the land administration sector within Namibia and southern Africa, through capacity building efforts and continuous curriculum enhancement to suit global trends and developments.

Through an analysis of current teaching approaches, graduation rates, and industry intake of graduates, the study will present results on the role of land administration as a disciple within the support for improved urban land governance in Namibia. The demand for land administration skills is of utmost importance for Namibia and many developing countries in general. With the majority of local authorities struggling to efficiently deliver the land. To date, it is reported that 40% of the urban population resides in an informal settlement, a phenomenon that is indicative of poor land administration systems implementation. Moreover, this can be a result of a lack of political will and the application of available skills.

The paper will present an overview of the method of teaching at the university, aimed at capacitating professionals to support the local and national government to implement efficient land administration. Research is centred on upgrading this knowledge. With a range of tools and support

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professionals from local and international networks to share knowledge with staff and students. The work-integrated learning component of the qualifications in land administration equips students to apply the theoretical knowledge to the practical work environment. In the Department of Land and Property Sciences, the objective is to connect student's theories, tools and technologies that can support the capacity gap in the land administration sector. This ensures that, when students are attached during work-integrated learning, knowledge can be exchanged- either at National, regional or local Authority levels. The collaboration with civil society, through a memorandum of understanding for internships and the programme advisory committees, gives us an insight into what is needed.

The paper concludes by emphasising the importance of supporting universities in learning exchanges and capacitating of staff. For NUST, this has been through learning and exposure to developments in the Land Administration sector through The Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa.

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