

A Prototype Land Information System: Case Study of New Taveta Town in Kenya

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SUMMARY

The formulation of the National Land policy in Kenya in the year 2009 has sought to address critical issues on land administration, land management, access to land, and resolution of historical injustices on land, environmental degradation, proper land use systems and unplanned proliferation of informal settlements in the urban areas. It also seeks to keep an up to date inventory of all private, government and public land in the country. The policy has proposed the development of a Land Information Management System as a foundation upon which the policy will be implemented. Central to this development is the design, construction and maintenance of an up to date Land Information System (LIS).

A Land Information System (LIS) is a computer based information system that enables the input, management, analysis, output and dissemination of spatially referenced, land parcel based data and information at mainly large (mapping) scales. This technology, which has matured in the developed countries, has been proven to be an invaluable tool for better land administration and land management. The use of the technology is catching up in the developing countries Kenya included. A LIS creates a comprehensive data on land ownership, land use, land valuation, land taxation, land statistics and management. Such a system is easy to update, secure and facilitates quick retrieval of information. The objective of the study is to develop a Land Information System by developing a geo-database that incorporates both spatial and non-spatial attributes of land parcels in the New Taveta Town.

The study aims to demonstrate how a computerized land information system supports operations such as search on land, land transfer, land taxation, land use planning and land valuation. The study area covers 5409 land parcels under fixed boundary

survey.

The methodological approach applied in this study was; data collection and capture, data processing and verification, building a GIS database and finally out-putting of the results and analysis.

The results of the study include search reports on different parcels such as tax reports, ownership reports, property user reports, transfer reports among others; and query results by different users of the system such as investors, financial institutions, surveyors, planners, land administrators among others. The Land Information System developed is easy to update, secure and facilitates quick retrieval of information.

The conclusions drawn from the results and analysis of the study was that computerized land records are easy to update, process, analyze and retrieve and it will be useful for the County Government to set up such a system.