

ABSTRACT

Is the Land Use Planning Process being Marginalized in Trinidad? – Fact or Fiction

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This paper investigates the deficiencies in the land use planning system and explores the phenomenon of marginalization of the land use planning process via the conduct of qualitative and historical research, using the island of Trinidad as a case study. It puts forward practical recommendations for the strengthening of the land use planning system in Trinidad.

Economic planning in Trinidad is prominent and disconnected from the land use planning system. This suffers from administrative deficiencies in its delegated functions of development planning and development control. This has contributed to the marginalization of the land use planning process. In the 1980s and 1990s, a number of reforms were proposed, aimed at improving the developmental impact of the practice of land use planning and the operational efficiency of the Town and Country Planning Division, the institution responsible for the execution of the functions of development planning and development control.

The Town and Country Planning Division despite persistent administrative deficiencies currently experienced, has embarked upon a number of new initiatives geared towards improving the efficiency of the land use planning system. Legislative reform is currently underway. This reform embodies proposed reforms made in the 1980s and 1990s.

The land use planning process in Trinidad is being marginalized. This phenomenon is quite complex. Indicators or expressions of it, such as an incoherent development pattern are blatant on the macro level. Politics as well as deficiencies in the land use planning system are exacerbated by insufficient technical resources and state lethargy needed to monitor, enforce regulations and to adopt proposals contained largely in the National Physical Development Plan.

KEYWORDS: Annika Fritz, marginalization, land use planning system, land use planning process and state lethargy.