

ABSTRACT

The Marginalization of Physical Planning in Jamaica: Ramifications for the Development of Linstead (St. Catherine) a Sub Regional Urban Centre.

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Physical planning was poised to chart the course towards development in the Post-Independence period of the 1960s for many nations like Jamaica. As envisioned by the development practitioners and political leaders of the time, the development plan was to be used as the primary framework within which development strategies were to be formulated.

Subsequently, the island has experienced difficult economic times resulting in an overall decline in its balance of payments and foreign capital reserves. In a quest to revive the economy, the government embarked on a process of development via projects in respective sectors and geographic areas, during the process undermining the role of physical planning in the development process. The study incorporates through macro (nationwide) and micro (sub regional) assessments, an appropriate methodology, for identifying the current trends of, and future for physical planning and the role of the physical planner in Jamaica, for the pre-independence period to present.

Physical planning has for a number of reasons practically failed at promoting and guiding development throughout many areas of Jamaica, such as the sub-regional area of Linstead. This is depicted by the manner in which the area has developed in

the past, the current patterns it exhibits, and the role that the Local Authority has played in guiding development in the area. Essentially, the factors that gave rise to the situation are not solely internal (to the island), though its political and economic systems have impacted greatly, as have the forces of the external factors.

The state of the national and global environments has changed. There are as a result, questions raised as to the future for the role of physical planning and physical planners in Jamaica's quest for development. The research, against the background established, put forward recommendations for addressing the issues contributing to, and created by a peripheralised physical planning system and the downplayed role of physical planners in the development process generally in Jamaica and particularly in Linstead.

KEYWORDS: Tanya Bedward, physical (spatial) planning, physical planners, economic planning, development, marginalization, politics, economy, international relationships, multilateral and bilateral agreements, structural adjustment, globalization, development projects (sectoral and geographic areas), integration, coordination, institutional, legislative and administrative framework efficiencies, reform, central government, local government, and public awareness.