

Land Administration: A Cornerstone for Economic Development

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Key words:

ABSTRACT

Land registration and administration have been an important element of the legal and economic infrastructure of organized society since the dawn of history. The presentation enumerates several examples of well-established land administration systems starting with the 3rd millennium B.C., and concludes that the strong association between economically well developed states and well functioning land administration systems suggests important economic functions served by these systems. These functions are then reviewed, highlighting the importance of land administration in enhancing tenure security, credit market linkages, and the efficient functioning of land markets. All of these lead to improved economic performance. Empirical evidence from various parts of the world is cited to substantiate the points made. Social aspects of land administration are then reviewed, as well as measures to mitigate potential negative outcomes. The presentation then focuses on World Bank activities in the area of land administration and lessons learned from Bank experience.

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