FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

1st SEMESTER 2019

ASSESSMENT 1

FOR

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

UDP711S
Ms Nelao N. Puleinge would like to thank all students for submitting assignment one. The overall performance was good. Keep up the good work dear students! The lowest score in Assignment 1 was a 35% and the highest score was 77%.

These are challenges identified during tutor-marking:

- Many students did not acknowledge sources consulted during research. Academic dishonesty needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency!

- Most of the materials/sources listed under the reference page are not cited anywhere in the body of an assignment.

- Some students did not use the American Psychological Association (APA) referencing housing style, 6th edition.
A few assignments do not consist of an introduction, Conclusion or Reference page.

Many students did not use a variety of reading materials; excessive use of web-based sources is discouraged.

Practical and relevant examples were not provided by many students; therefore general information regarding the topic.

The Marker tutor comment page, Assignment evaluation form are not attached by many students.

A number of students failed to select a local authority of their choice and instead provided general information.

NOTE: Students are encouraged to read and adhere to comments provided in assignment 1 in order to improve performance in assignment 2. Students need to use the Assignment Evaluation Form as guidelines when compiling an assignment.

ASSIGNMENT 1

There are two general approaches to regulation. The one indicates that any land development requires special permission. The other approach says that regulations are there to protect property rights as part of communal mutual support. Both approaches are relevant but should be adjusted according to what we expect from the regulations. The following is what we expect from the regulations:

- Coordinated land management
- Interpretation of spatial and financial planning
- Better protection of the environment
- Economic efficiency
- Equity
- Minimisation of public expenditure
Regulations must be responsive:

Like all regulations and policies. They are not fixed in stone. They can be changed. It is a strange thing that having adopted such standards, local urban managers complain about the restrictive nature of these same regulations when applied to certain, usually low income areas.

Changing regulations:

Change to urban areas takes place usually due to the following:

- Growth and expansion,
- changing technology,
- Changing social and economic circumstances.

Changes must be made to regulations to ensure optimal accommodation in changes. The dynamic of land use lead to successive land uses (in the same neighborhood)- one type of activity gives way to another. In Windhoek we see it with the vigorous creation of an office fringe to the City Centre. In other towns it shows as areas of undesirability- absolute and ill-maintained buildings are no longer functional for new uses. The challenge of planning is to anticipate change and to take the best steps to adapt regulations to new circumstances. Adaption may involve the following:

- Convincing decision makers of the likelihood of change and the benefits of the proposed amendments
- Ensuring that change is at a pace that can be tolerated by those who are directly affected.
- Introducing regulatory changes timeously to facilitate desirable actions.

The participation of citizens in decision-making processes that affect their lives and access to accountability mechanisms is fundamental to the promotion of sustainable development and poverty reduction. This is particularly relevant at the local level, where citizens live and work, where basic services are provided and where enterprises are established. Citizens have, therefore, common interests at stake, to set objectives and work together in identifying solutions particularly aiming at improved access to services, a more balanced distribution of available resources, greater social cohesion and enhanced accountability and transparency of public authorities, including to accountability mechanisms.
Legislations provide procedures for change. The procedures ensure:

- Proposals are communicated to the affected parties who are given opportunity to comment
- That the implications are evaluated by trained and experienced persons
- That proposal is determined by people in leadership positions which oblige them to take responsibility for the future of the greater community.

The following are steps in the amendment of a regulation:

- The need for amended regulation was recognized
- Technical and legal comments are sought
- Draft regulations were drawn up based on previous regulations, technical comments received, and new proposals were made to develop the developing trends/
- The draft was presented to and discussed with stakeholders (estate agents, traffic officers, legal advisors etc.
- The draft was amended and submitted for local authority council approval
- The approved draft was submitted for legal drafting (to ensure it would legally satisfy the purpose for which it has been created)
- The regulations were then promulgated

Dodging procedures when drafting regulations may easily result in:

- Affected parties being ignored
- Critical comments being avoided
- Potential improvement being unheard
- Half-hearted support

Throughout the world, citizens are increasingly demanding that government be both accountable and transparent. This is especially true at the local level where citizen confidence in government is very directly
related both to the responsiveness of government to the needs of citizens and its openness to participation and involvement by them. For citizens to participate effectively in government, they must be able both to understand it and to have confidence in it. Local governments in many parts of the world, being relatively new institutions, have the opportunity to set a new standard of excellence in terms of accountability and transparency and, in so doing, to help reverse the growing trend of citizen disillusionment with government institutions.

Effective service delivery requires strong horizontal management capacities at local level and a change of mentality from a ‘vertical’ to a ‘horizontal’ orientation in local government. However, the integrated service delivery strategy needs to take into account the specificity of services when it comes to deciding about possible delivery partnerships. It is important to ensure the involvement of the local communities from the start of policy planning at the local level in order to ensure the creation of a delivery system that will be supported by local citizens. Feedback mechanisms need to be developed if local governments are to be effective in service delivery. One of the key potential advantages of the decentralization of service delivery is that monitoring and evaluation is easier at the local level. Innovative feedback mechanisms (citizen surveys etc.) need to be piloted. User groups should be involved in their design. Transferability of experience is limited when it comes to social service delivery. There may be lessons to be learned and transferred as to decentralization mechanisms and management models.

*Students need to elaborate on the meaning of responsive and responsible regulations*

*Make use of practical examples to interpret the significance of having responsive and responsible regulations in a certain local authority.*

**END OF FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER**