An Electronic Geoinformation Supply Model for Land Registry Organisations (LROs) in Countries in Transition – South Africa and Zimbabwe

Nehemiah MAVETERA, South Africa

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ABSTRACT

In many countries National Mapping Organisations (NMOs) and Deeds/Title registration departments make up the Land Registration Organisations (LROs). These LROs play an important role in the dissemination of Geoinformation for Land administration. An effective and efficient land administration system relies on an efficient management of information supply by the LROs. The NMOs and the Deeds department, often lie under different ministries. LROs information must be accessible, cheap and readily available. This poses a lot of challenges for LROs in Countries in Transition. South Africa and Zimbabwe are examples of Countries in Transition.

The LRO departments need to decentralise their operations and services to reduce user-commuting distances, costs and make information accessible to the majority of people. The so-called democratisation of Geoinformation. LROs are commercialising and privatising to reduce financial dependence on government purse. This exposes them to competition from other geoinformation suppliers. There is need to reduce supply costs, increase viability, and increase their market share. They need to invest in new and appropriate technology. LROs for Countries in transition operate under very strict and mean budgetary limits. There is need to balance between privatisation, recovery of investment costs and their statutory obligations to make information accessible and available free of charge.

LROs need to develop electronic geoinformation supply models that ensure information is brought closer to the users. These will reduce user-commuting distances and overall information costs. Two electronic geoinformation supply models are found which depend on the IT infrastructure of a country. These are the Web Model which fits well in countries whose Internet market is big and the Electronic Supply Model which relies on the establishment of Satellite Service Offices (SSOs) in regional cities and the existence of a wide area network (WAN).

The success of the electronic supply of geoinformation depends on the successful fit between the infrastructure, equipment and human resource with the modifications in the organization and management of the LROs.

CONTACT

Mr Nehemiah Mavetera
Monash University South Africa Campus
P Bag X60, RoodePoort, 1725
Johannesburg
SOUTH AFRICA
Tel. + 27 11 950 4036
Fax + 27 11 950 4033
E-mail: nehemiah.mavetera@infotech.monash.edu.au