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Title: Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements

Urbanisations: Challenges and Solutions



Introduction

Zimbabwe just like many if not all developing countries is faced by serious urbanization. This is mainly due to some push/pull factors like:

- Better infrastructure development in urban areas than rural areas
- Better health and education facilities
- Economic hardships in rural areas
- Climatic changes which are making agriculture as a form of livelihood unsustainable- Seasons have become shorter.



Problems

The major challenges faced by a country undergoing urbanization like Zimbabwe are many. The list below highlights a few:

- Overwhelming of the existing infrastructure
- Lack of decent and durable accommodation
- Haphazard/Unplanned settlements
- Overcrowding resulting in increase in crime, outbreak of diseases, social decay
- As towns grow laterally, transport cost increase



Proposed Solutions

- There is need for government and municipalities to stick to rural and urban planning by laws and master plans.
- Regularise the unplanned settlements into more regular settlements which can be serviced
- Develop the rural areas to reduce rate of urbanization
- Increase the capacity of existing infrastructure
- Change in type of tenure systems for example moving from free hold to sectional titles and leases

Role of Geo Spatial Information Systems

- When opt to regularize there is need to have GIS for people affected before implementing
- There is need to have an update cadastre i.e. who is where and who owns what
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- To assist in planning and management of utilities.



Good day

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