

The Professional Association and Its Role in Protecting the Public Interest in a Developing Nation

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SUMMARY

A professional association serves as an advisor to government in support of the operation of an effective and efficient land market. A professional association can also relieve government of the responsibility of maintaining a strong and responsive surveying profession to maintain a reliable cadastral system and provide the citizens with an efficient, dependable and professional body of surveyors to serve industry, government and the general public. The professional association is a body specifically responsible to ensure that professional practitioners honour their commitment to serve the public faithfully and competently. The concepts of professional organizations are examined to show their function in the maintenance of a reliable cadastral system upon which records of land ownership are based and which form the nucleus for settlement and developmental activities. A strong, active professional association contributes an organizational structure which facilitates the provision of professional services which can be relied upon not just by the present generation but also by future generations which must also depend upon the archival land records for the stability of the land tenure system. A strong, vibrant professional body can be a key advisor to government on land management activities which virtually every department of government and most private agencies such as mining and exploration, electrical power, pipeline, telephone and cable companies rely on, on a day to day basis. In addition to their primary role of providing an organizational base for land surveying and/or land professionals, professional associations relieve government of the responsibility of monitoring and regulating the surveying profession.

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