THE IMPERATIVE OF LAND REFORMS AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN PARTS OF PORT HARCOURT CITY, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper seeks to highlight that the basis of a National Land Reform should be to guarantee the redistribution of the wealth in land by providing title to urban population for housing development. The methodology adopted for this research includes a housing census and administration of a structured questionnaire to various households in selected areas of Port Harcourt City to ascertain the purpose/uses of existing building units within the study area. This process was systematically carried out based on the subdivision of the area commencing from the Abuloma axis towards the south terminating in and around the Amadi-Ama community. The study shows that the predominant use of housing units in the area is for residential purposes (average of 86.7%), this further underscore the need for adequate provision of houses (shelter) for the urban population being a fundamental right. The surveyor therefore is required to provide urban land information being an indispensable tool for the Land Reforms. Land is a limited resource, and it is important to know how much land is occupied by whom and for what purposes and how much land is still left out for further allocation and development.

Keywords: Land Reform; Housing; Urban-Poor, Port Harcourt