Upgrading unsustainable urban development: context matters

Mary Walta
PhD Student Department of Pacific Affairs
Australian National University
Currently undertaking ethnographic fieldwork in Pari village.
I would like to recognise and pay respect to the Motu and Koita peoples past and present on whose land we meet and to their contribution to the development of Port Moresby.
Developing World stuck with unsustainable development

Colonial & Development Aid legacy
- Laws and BAU policy & planning
- Ignores externalities of economic growth and sustainable development

PNG Constitution
- Participation, consultation, consensus

Mama Graun Tribal Charter
- nation building starts with people building

Our Common Future (WCED 1987)
- Poverty, natural resource depletion, environmental destruction & climate change
  
  sustainable development requires that societies meet human needs to increasing productive potential and by ensuring equitable opportunities for all
BAU approach contributing to unsustainability

Material use

Energy


UN-Habitat PARTICIPATORY citywide upgrading

SDG 11 - make cities & human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient & sustainable

UN-Habitat Citywide Upgrading Strategy

• include settlements & villages in urban development plan
• upgrade incrementally with employment & local economic development
• invest in social capital for cohesion & organizational resources

Reality


NCD Governor: *Settlements to Suburbs*

Amazing Port Moresby: One City, One People, One Future Master Plan (pending)
Port Moresby Context

Urban development - reactive

• Accurate data lacking
• Urbanisation Policy & Office of Urbanisation
• Urban customary land – ILG failure
• Administrative and planning dysfunction\(^1\)
• Inadequate access to water, power, sanitation, waste collection

➢ Piecemeal and divisive

Population & development

• around 1 million with around half living in settlements & villages\(^2\)
• Youth, poverty, unemployment
• TVET, UYEP, Ginigoada
• Self-development – Faith-based orgs & NGOs


\(^1\) Walter et al. 2016 Improving Urban Development NRI

\(^2\) World Bank Group 2015 Unsettled: Water and Sanitation in Urban Settlement Communities of the Pacific
PROACTIVE – attend to the basics

• How will urban poor pay and is it sustainable?

  ➢ JICA Tertiary treated sewage
  ➢ Edu Ranu (& PNG Power) still building demand capacity & Edu Ranu not able to collect the cost of 50% of what is supplied

Develop sustainable low-cost options

➢ affords skills & jobs and added value to PNG resources
  • compost toilets/tanks/roofing
  • biomass stoves
  • solar power
  • recycling organic and reusable resources