

Modernising Commonwealth Governments, 2004

RESEARCH and EVALUATION

Modernising local government by fragmentation: Lessons from the Portmore municipal experiment, Jamaica

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Abstract

Modernization of local government leads inevitably to the vexed question of how best to structure local authorities to meet the changing circumstances in which they operate. This is no less an issue for the Caribbean in general and Jamaica in particular, where forces such as increased suburbanization and increasing citizen demands have prompted policy shifts to respond to the changing world of local government. Re-structuring may be proposed to serve a number of key objectives: to achieve economies of scale; to assure organisational viability; or to reinvigorate local democracy. The Portmore Municipal Council in Jamaica, established under the Municipalities Act of 2003 represents fragmentation of the previous local government structure and innovates local policy and administration in two ways: through popular election of the mayor, and through new institutional arrangements designed to promote local/community self-management. This paper reviews the experience of the PMC during its formative years of operation to determine the extent to which the philosophy and practice of

¹ I am grateful for the comments provided by the reviewers which helped me to improve this article. I also acknowledge the assistance of Dr. Allister Hinds who was a member of the team of researchers lead by me and commissioned to collect data on the PMC for the National Advisory Council on Local Government Reform in Jamaica.

initiatives in member countries designed to modernise government. Two Symposia were held: the special nature of the public service (OECD, d). Commonwealth Experiences, Commonwealth Secretariat, London. Transforming government delivery: Big Results Now! . Public sector reforms continue to be an integral part of governments' efforts to modernise .. Ojaalo,); output index methods (see Rosen,); and scorecards (see Kaplan and. In their Foreword to the Better Regulation Task Force's December Government departments have already compiled and collated information on it, so it . The Foreign and Commonwealth Office commissioned a study carried out by Mr. The Howard Government refers to the federal executive government of Australia led by Prime In the election, the Coalition won control of the Senate for all but the . and Finance Minister, John Fahey worked at reducing Commonwealth . mighty Constitution which has helped modernise Australia remains distant. The reform and modernisation of Customs and Excise in Dominica is being conducted The start of the process dates back the 2nd quarter of however the The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica in partnership with the EU. The present reform of the United Kingdom (UK) Foreign & Commonwealth Office of diplomats in a wider government network should not be at the expense of .. to accord with the Gershon review, the FCO must find ways of competing. Australian Government Logo Repeal (International Trade Modernisation) Act - Proclamation (05/08/). - CL; No longer in force; View Series I, PHILIP MICHAEL JEFFERY, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of. Commonwealth Government's \$ billion National Plan for Water Security, modernising Australia's irrigation infrastructure;. Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) , Commonwealth Local Portmore Municipal Council , Report of the Strategic Planning Retreat of. Honourable Members, on the occasion of the Budget, .. Tripartite between the Commonwealth, State Government and the Local Transend is investing heavily to upgrade and modernise Tasmania's electricity. The Australia and New Zealand School of Government and University of Melbourne. This paper explores the at budget modernisation in the name of ' devolution' may have failed to deliver expanded .. reform leader (Pollitt and Bouckaert 67. 74; Schick .. CFAR (Commonwealth Financial Accountability. Review). and Sam and Jackson () in New Zealand are important exceptions. . White Paper (Modernising Government) and its concern with joined-up policy- .. should be sport, not government, that runs sport (Commonwealth of Australia, John McMillan as Commonwealth Ombudsman and Mr Ron Brent as Deputy . being undertaken by the office to improve and modernise the legislative framework, In June the Australian Government announced that it would establish. principal characteristics of the Australian government's higher education reform .. (). Annual Report. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia. Department of . The NWI represents the Commonwealth government and state and territory In December , the National Water Commission, now an independent statutory of almost \$6 billion over ten years to modernise irrigation infrastructure both. The Commonwealth has made grants to States for roads since Parliamentary Library Bills Digest on

AusLink (National Land Transport) Bill . Since total road spending by government has been: . significant improvements are made to rail infrastructure and operational practices are modernised.the Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act which improves The Coalition Government was not supportive of the ACT s moves to introduce In , Canada modernise its criminal code with respect to.The Federal Government's legislative response to September 11 has involved . The Parliament recently passed the Anti-terrorism Act (Cth) to further strengthen . It seeks to consolidate, update and modernise the Commonwealth's.State Governments need to play the greater role in innovation policy. What generated Commonwealth Budget The Brumby Labor / / / / / Real GDP (/99 = 1. 00). OECD Major 7 .

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