



## The University of the West Indies (UWI) at a Glance:

- Established in 1948 as a University College of the University of London, becoming an independent university in 1962.
- Four Campuses: Mona (Jamaica), St Augustine (Trinidad & Tobago), Cave Hill (Barbados) and Open Campus.

### Vision:

By 2017, the University will be globally recognized as a regionally integrated, innovative, internationally competitive

university, deeply rooted in all aspects of Caribbean development and committed to serving the diverse people of the region and beyond.

## Locating Local Economic Development at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Mona Campus

LED is easily located in the operations of UWI's FSS Mona Campus based on core foci which are illustrated below: **Research, Teaching, and Public Service.**

**RESEARCH** — LED presents an opportunity for knowledge creation in two primary ways:

### 1. Theory building

- analysis for policy where LED experiences are assessed with the aim of providing generalisable propositions about techniques, environment and capacities that may conduce towards economic growth at the subnational level. (Predictions; modeling).

### 2. Applied research

- analysis of policy where LED experiences are studied with the aim of providing policy relevant information. (Policy recommendations; prescriptions).

### TEACHING

- programmatic content diversified with sufficient engagement with economic development and public and policy management
- research on micro- small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs); the informal sector/economy, local development and local government
- LED initiatives create 'windows of opportunity' for programmes to build policy and management competences as well as organizational capacity in this field in the Region.
- Programmes geared toward the post-graduate market and currently in their research phase will be fast-tracked for development and processing through the UWI programmes approval system.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

- high level expertise and a wealth of experience available in the Region to provide advisory and consultative services on LED.

## COUNTRY CONTEXT FOR LED IN JAMAICA

Schoburgh (2006:3) defines local government as a subnational level of government comprising a group of local authorities that is established by law to undertake representational and administrative functions for the localities within their jurisdictions. Local government in Jamaica is identifiable by 14 local authorities made up of 12 parish councils (PCs), the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC) and the Portmore Municipal Council, a second-tier council within the parish of St. Catherine (CLGF Handbook 2011/12: 87). Each local authority reports directly to the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development which in turn makes representations to Parliament. The Ministry of Local Government and Community Development has oversight of the laws governing the operations of local authorities and coordinates the interactions between levels of government.

### Main sources of revenues:

- Property Taxes
- Motor Vehicle Licence Fees
- Local Rates
- Trade and Spirit Licence Fees
- Building and Sub Division Approval Fees
- Fees from other regulatory functions



## KEY CHALLENGES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN DOING LED

### ■ CHALLENGE 1: Value of local government

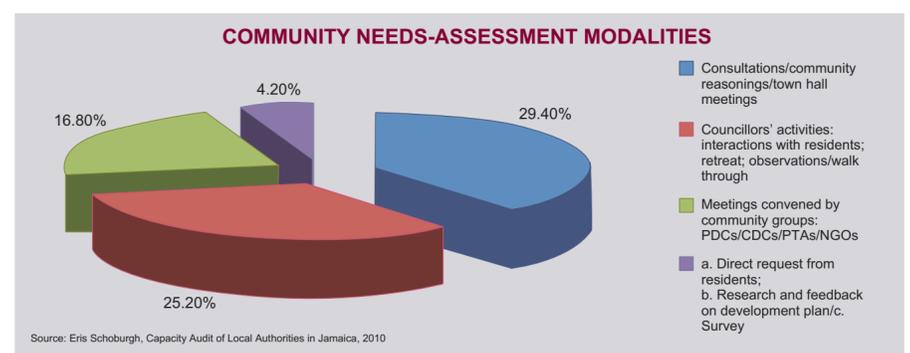
As a facilitator of LED, local government in Jamaica must overcome the historical legacy of an acquired status as an inconsequential actor in central-local relations and especially in efforts geared towards developmental objectives. LED must confront path dependency in local government operations.

### ■ CHALLENGE 2: Disconnect from localities and 'communities'

Local government is not generally seen as the first 'port of call' for community problem-solving. This function is perceived to reside in the Member of Parliament and in some locations, the 'Area Don. In particular, local government is the victim of a generational divide in knowledge about, and interest in, its affairs. From observation the under 50 age cohort of the population, on an average, does not know about the functions of local government or the process of reform; does not appear to care and generally is not interested in matters to do with local government. This finding has important implications for LED since this age cohort is the one that is encouraged to adopt an entrepreneurial approach to employment and by extension wealth creation.

### ■ CHALLENGE 3: Disconnect from business sector/'community'

The business sector utilizes the services provided by local government mainly because of the political institution's monopoly of these services. The business sector does not appear inspired to build other types of relationships with local authorities citing the operations of local authorities as inefficient and not in synchrony with what is required for local business development and expansion.



In fact there is a tendency for the relationship between the local authority and its business community to be acrimonious evidenced by the appreciable level of non-compliance with regulatory guidelines exhibited by the latter.

### ■ CHALLENGE 4: Policy and administrative leadership

There is a tendency for leadership to be reactive due in part to the 'command and control' administrative ethos of the local authority. LED requires more than high level educational qualifications. It requires new incentive structures that link leadership performance to local economic developmental objectives/goals; it requires new organizational outlook that takes account of environmental impulses through systematic research and policy analysis [see needs assessment graphic for research results]; it requires a new organizational mandate that is clearly articulated and to which the business processes of the local authority are aligned. LED requires policy and administrative leadership in local government that is proactive, strategic, and decisive and whose worldview is expansive.