ABSTRACT

In the last two years the implementation of Town Councils has been the topic of much discussion. The Town Councils Act 1988 has given councils an unequivocal six months to prepare to take over the management of estates managed by the Housing Development Board which has maintained the estates for the past 30 years. Can town councils within this period of time be able to effectively manage the estates entrusted to them?

The task faced by the councils is an unenviable if not daunting one. This is especially so when the Singapore government has specifically stated that it has no intention of assisting any council that is unable to provide for its residents an effective management system.

This study aims to analyse the maintenance and management problems which are expected to arise during this initial period of six months and prove that if the government expects to have healthy and useful Town Councils it has to allow greater flexibility especially in the initial period. In the light of the evidence provided in this study it is found that in order to encourage resident participation in the improvement of their living environment, the government has to allow councils to grow slowly and through their own efforts gain the unqualified support of the people.