

**Participation, Partnership and Enabling:
A Recipe for Successful Urban Development--The Case of Al-Safa, Ismailia**

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ABSTRACT

Developing countries that had gained their political independence are still enmeshed in a financial and economic net of dependency. Today the world continues to witness major transformations where companies of industrial developed societies monopolize information, technologies, capital and innovations. Among the reasons for mega-global corporations to locate their headquarters in cities of developed countries is good local governance, which secures access to amenities, stability and avails capacities and resources thus resulting an environment that nurtures economic growth.

This paper argues that among the factors for successful sustainable urban development is good governance. Only in democratic societies market mechanisms were instrumental in achieving sustainable economic growth and sensible use of environmental resources. The paper uses Al-Safa, Ismailia as a case study to support the argument. It concludes that institutional transformation that results good governance is a *sine qua non* for sustain urban development to materialize.