

Dicend Chiseko

In South Africa, about 17% of the land is owned by the state, while 83% is privately owned; of that, about 72% of farms are owned by whites, coloureds own about 15%, Indians own 5%, and Africans own 4%. Just 7% of the land has been redistributed to black recipients over the previous 26 years.

In December 2017, the ANC announced its aim to have the Constitution amended to expropriate land without compensation.

There are positive and negative sides to land expropriation without compensation, says Dicend Chiseko. For example, land redistribution could intensify economic inequality by causing a decline in land values, blocking new investments and growth in the farming sector, and destabilising the market prices of business areas of the economy.

On the positive side, however, it could lead to the establishment of a group of feasible black agricultural producers that can make a significant contribution to the agrarian as well as the national economy. Small-scale farmers could mitigate extreme hunger and poverty by providing basic needs such as food to rural dwellers or groups of families, as well as reducing exploitation of labour and land degradation.

However, land redistribution should be done equitably, and with compensation for developments and investments, equipment and machines, and translocation costs. Emerging farmers should be given collateral and lease agreements to access funds, and land audits should be done regularly to check who is using the land efficiently.

BIO

University: University of Fort Hare

Funding: Zimbabwe Presidential Scholarship

More about Dicend

Favourite subjects: Economics, Agriculture and Statistics.

Interests: Reading, gardening and football.

Inspired by: Zimbabwean businessman and philanthropist Strive Masiyiwa.

Main achievements: Worked as a tutor for two years.

Community activity: Member of University of Fort Hare Skills Development Club.

In 10 years' time ... I'll be a big-time executive!