

Lee-Anne Andanje

Over the past 26 years, South Africa has distributed only about 10% of white commercial farmland, and the 'willing buyer, willing seller' premise has not borne the required results or has been too slow to meet targets. Land expropriation without compensation is possible and can decrease poverty and unemployment, thus leading to increased economic growth, says Lee-Anne Andanje.

Land reform creates better facilities and space for local farmers to pursue agricultural and land-cultivating activities, boosting production and export sales. It increases the locals' rights over land use and cultivation. It would lead to a more uniform standard of living affordable across all races, classes and sectors of South Africans.

Lack of farming opportunities in rural areas encourages migration to urban areas, thus putting a strain on urban social amenities and housing, and increasing crime in the cities. Expropriation would give a fair opportunity to historically dispossessed communities to participate in the land market, reducing this migration. Successful land reform is linked to poverty reduction, which ultimately reduces food insecurity, as land can be used as collateral, enabling landowners to obtain credit to use for the maintenance and improvement of their land.

International experience has shown that without proper planning, the results of expropriation without compensation can be disastrous. South Africa's methods should not match Zimbabwe's land reform of the early 2000s, which involved severe violence and hyperinflation, which negatively impacted the economy.

BIO

University: University of Pretoria

Funding: Family

More about Lee-Anne

Favourite subjects: Macroeconomics, International Trade/Finance, Economic Policy and Development, and Regression Analysis.

Interests: Coding, behavioural economics, and volunteer and charitable work.

Inspired by: People who enjoy leaving their comfort zone, such as actor Tyler Perry, athlete Serena Williams, entrepreneur Quinton van der Burgh, or scientists who revolutionise the way the world functions; and my parents, who came from humble beginnings.

Main achievements: First black head girl of St Dunstan's College (2017); best position paper in first Virtual Model United Nations (2020).

Community activity: Organiser of volunteer and charitable work; Sunday-school teacher at the King's Tabernacle Church.

In 10 years' time ... I can see myself obtaining my PhD and being even more confident in this field, with more knowledge and experience. I have every intention of starting an NGO focused on providing nutritious meals to children on the African continent.