

## **Suvira Singh**

Land ownership in South Africa is mostly skewed towards the white minority, which owns 72%, followed by coloureds with 15%, Indians with 5% and Africans with 4%. The need for land reform cannot be ignored, but would land expropriation without compensation further economic growth or simply worsen it, asks Suvira Singh.

Expropriation without compensation under inadequate legal frameworks can be examined using international comparisons: Zimbabwe (unsuccessful) and South Korea (successful). Using expropriation without compensation to fast-track land reform in South Africa without proper provisions put into place inevitably puts the entire economy at risk. This is because there are no proper provisions outlined in the Protection of Investment Act for arbitrary dispute resolutions or compensation, which suggests that the entire economy and its citizens would eventually end up paying for land seizures through the loss of agricultural exports, job opportunities and investor confidence. Expropriation without compensation poses a threat to foreign direct investment, a significant catalyst in economic growth, by putting property rights and protection afforded to foreign investors at risk.

On the other hand, expropriation without compensation implemented lawfully, with certain regulatory conditions and economic efficiency principals used as a guideline, could aid economic growth in a more inclusive manner.

Suvira concludes that should land expropriation without compensation be implemented, the evidence strongly suggests that it could easily dampen South Africa's economy and such a drastic measure for faster land reform ultimately has dire repercussions.

### **BIO**

University: University of Johannesburg

Funding: NSFAS

More about Suvira

Favourite subjects: Economics, and Financial Economics/Investment Management.

Interests: Animal welfare, dog training and photography.

Inspired by: My mother and sister.

Main achievements: Being the first in my family to attend university.

Community activity: SPCA volunteer work.

In 10 years' time ... I see myself being a successful fund manager, dog trainer and photographer, and an influential animal activist.