

## **Zola Bradley Thamaga**

When apartheid ended in 1994, 87% of rural land was dominated by 50 000 commercial white farmers, in contrast with the rural black population within the former homelands, amounting to less than one hectare per person. Zola Thamaga notes that land inequality is still evident in democratic South Africa despite the ruling party's efforts to reverse apartheid effects.

There are ways to avoid food insecurity and hunger while addressing the land problem. This was evident in post-independence South Korea's agrarian land reform, which resulted in tenancy fading and small farmers benefiting, while food security increased.

The advisory panel to the South African president advocated that the Land Claims Court should include four permanent judges and a judge president. This is similar to Peru's land-reform process, where a special Agrarian Tribunal was established in the 1990s to oversee the reforms and educate people on the new economic model. Oversight from the judiciary will ensure that the reform process is not structured in a way that favours members and/or supporters of any ruling party.

The 'willing buyer, willing seller' approach has failed to yield positive results not only in South Africa but in Zimbabwe as well. The government ought to change the constitution to fast-track land expropriation, provided that there is judicial oversight. Zola feels that radical land reform will usher in an era of hope and progress.

### **BIO**

University: University of Johannesburg

Funding: NSFAS

More about Zola

Favourite subjects: Development Economics, Public Economics, Financial Economics and Investment Management.

Interests: Online courses, choir, piano, tutoring.

Inspired by: Executive and portfolio manager in the financial-services industry Kabelo K Rikhotso.

Main achievements: Recipient of CFA Level 1 student scholarship; 2019 semifinalist in the Nedbank & Old Mutual Budget Speech competition.

Community activity: Finance volunteer at Catchafire (New York-based nonprofit that matches professionals who wish to donate time with nonprofits who're looking for their skills); volunteer at high school (mostly tutoring).

In 10 years' time ... I'd like to be an asset manager or chief economist, plus a CFA and CAIA charter holder.