

Arefa Seleho

The Expropriation Bill sought to amend the Constitution so as to legalise the process of expropriation of some categories of land without compensation, Arefa Seleho explains.

A key consideration for land expropriation is property rights, which are known to be the precondition for economic prosperity and political stability in a country. Investors are more willing to invest in property that is owned by individuals than the government, as individuals are incentivised to be more productive so as to generate their own wealth.

One of the primary objectives to expropriate land without compensation in South Africa is the belief that the redistribution of agricultural land will ensure the productive use of the land to promote agricultural growth, food security and exports. But in order to make this work, the government would have to assess the previous farming experience of proposed beneficiaries who will work the land and increase agricultural output. The transitional process would have to include the transfer of skills and technologies in order to ensure that it maximises on its ideals to empower and upskill those who need it most.

Land expropriation without compensation in South Africa will not be the prosperous transition for economic growth. Although necessary to ensure equitable and inclusive economic growth, land expropriation should be approached in a manner where it does not abandon property rights, violate international law or disgruntle investors and FDI opportunities.

BIO

University: University of the Witwatersrand

Funding: Amazon StudyTrust

More about Arefa

Favourite subjects: Public Economics, South African Development Issues, and Politics.

Interests: Indoor farming, reading, gym.

Inspired by: South African TV presenter, businesswoman and philanthropist Bonang Matheba, and feminist writer and scholar Pumla Dineo Gqola.

Main achievements: Going back to university to finish my degree; being the recipient of the Allan Gray Fellowship Scholarship; securing the Amazon bursary.

Community activity: Local netball team sponsored by the Jenny Wu Sports Academy.

In 10 years' time ... I see myself in the agricultural sector and also trying to break into the manufacturing industry: pioneering new and innovative ways of subsistence farming and empowering women in this sector by creating employment that makes an impact in rural and remote communities and looks at ameliorating issues around the feminisation of poverty.