

THE ZIMBABWE FAST TRACK LAND REFORM OF 2000 AND ITS CALAMITOUS SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS FOR ZIMBABWE

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Abstract

The objective in this Paper is to carry out a comprehensive Study of the ZFTLRP of 2000 and its calamitous socio-economic implications for the country and its people. Since the year 2000 Zimbabwe, once touted as the food basket for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is now reduced to a hopeless basket case now feeding its people on handouts from the philanthropic West despite it being a target of racial and political abuse by His Excellence President Mugabe for wanting to bring regime change to Zimbabwe. Hence the importance to carry out this Study in a comprehensive manner. On how the Author carried out the important study, he disregarded the State owned and lickspittle propaganda churning print and electronic media such as the daily Herald and weekly Sunday Mail print media. On the electronic media the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) and the Zimbabwe Television (ZTV) were similarly ignored in preference to the privately owned print and electronic media such as the Newsday, Daily News, the Independent, the Financial Gazette etc and the respected Internet on the electronic media. These are famous for stating it as it is on the ground without fear, favour or prejudice. On the major findings the land repossessed from the white commercial farmers numbering about 6 000 commercial farmers was redistributed to the then landless blacks who were not true farmers at heart. Hence hunger and starvation stalking Zimbabwe year in year out ever since then.

Keywords: Public administration, socio-economic blues, land reforms, farming, Zimbabwe

INTRODUCTION

Land has been a source of political conflict in Zimbabwe for a very long time since colonization when the country was then known as Rhodesia, both within indigenous black communities and especially between white settlers and the black rural communities. Under British colonial rule and under white minority government white ruled Rhodesia had that in 1965 unilaterally declared its independence from Britain, White Rhodesians seized control of the vast majority of good agricultural land, leaving black peasants to scrape a living from marginal “tribal reserves”. An end to white minority rule came in which land was a major issue but was ultimately negotiated through talks brokered by the British known as the Lancaster House Agreement which led to elections in 1980. His Excellence President Mugabe, leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU PF), the dominant liberation movement; won a resounding victory. However, the new government was bound by “sunset clauses” in the Lancaster House Agreement that gave special protections to white Zimbabweans for the first 10 years of Independence. These included provisions that the new government would not engage in any compulsory land acquisition and that when land was acquired the government would pay promptly adequate compensation for the property. Land distribution would take place in terms of willing buyer, willing seller. (From 1985, every vendor of land was required to obtain from government a “certificate of no present interest in the acquisition of the land concerned before going ahead with the sale. (Staff Reporter 2015).

So far so good about the Introduction to the discoursing in this Paper. With the Introduction out of the way what came next are the socio-economic calamities which greeted the aftermath of the Zimbabwe Fast Track Land Reform Programme of 2000.

In one of the ugliest scenes to do with the much hyped Land Reform Programme in Zimbabwe was about a Figtree white commercial farmer who was vowing to stay put despite the threat to his commercial farm by a close aide to His Excellence President Mugabe. Laiton (2014) has more on the spine chilling story.

Farmer vows to stay put (Laiton 2014)

A brave Figtree farmer David Connolly, who was being kicked out of his commercial farm by His Excellence President Mugabe’s close aide Ray Ndhlovu had vowed to stay put. Connolly accused Ndhlovu of wrongfully dragging the name of the Head of State in the messy fight over the farm in a manner that taints not only the image of the country but even that of His Excellence President Mugabe. Connolly had told the print media and in particular the weekly Standard that Ndhlovu was employing dirty tactics in order to kick him out of his farm by

invoking His Excellence President Mugabe's name in the land grabbing saga. Employing what is a shameful baboon and monkey trick he said;

"He got the farm from President Mugabe and I think it's a way of intimidating me. But I will not be intimidated by such empty threats. How can the President do that? It cannot be true. He cannot give such instructions, never. He thinks if he says that to me then I will leave my farm and go away, no", the farmer said (Laiton 2014)

The dejected sounding Connolly had said that the farm ownership wrangle had since put his other family members in trouble.

"My brother Michael was visited by the Plumtree District Administrator and a person in charge of the Lands in the district, one Dodzi on Friday and they warned him they wanted to chuck him out of his farm because I had filed papers in Court against the government", he said.

"They think if they put pressure on my brother I will go and sit down with them and withdraw the matter from the courts, but I will not do that, I am at the farm legally and if there was any Court order evicting me from it, I would not have resisted".

The farmer said he had applied for contempt charges against Ndhlukula on August 31, this year (2014) after the latter continued to interfere with his farming activities despite a court order for him to stop interfering.

"On the 13th of August 2014 we applied for the contempt of court matter to be dealt with at the High Court and we are still waiting for the matter to be set down for hearing. All the papers had been filed and Ndhlukula also filed his", Connolly said.

"Right now I am contemplating all the losses I have made and I am going to file a civil suit against Ndhlukula to claim everything that I have lost, as a result of his actions".

According to Connolly, Ndhlukula chased him out of his farm and took over cops worth many thousands of dollars. Ndhlukula has been trying to move onto Centenary Farm since June this year (2014) despite a high court order barring him from interfering with operations at the property, one of the most productive farms in Matabeleland South (Laiton 2014).

His workers started camping at Connolly's farm in August 2014 after the eviction of Connolly's farm workers from their dwellings. Workers were stopped from growing their crops by Ndhlukula's workers before the farm was barricaded. Ben Freeth, Spokesman of SADC Tribunal Rights Watch said in a Statement.

"Connolly was chased out of his home. Barricades were put up to stop him coming back and irrigating and reaping the 300 000 onion plants he still had in the ground, or planting the 50 000 cabbage seedlings he had ready to plant in the last week of September 2014". "There was no choice but for him and his workers to go to the police station again."

“The offer letter (which Ndhlukula claims to have) is yet to be produced, but the Connollys and their workers left the police station deeply distressed, as so many thousands of farmers, farm workers and their families have before them evicted, without being offered protection (Laiton 2014).

The brutal and gruesome treatment of Connolly and his workers by Ndhlukula in a Zimbabwe fast becoming a nation of heartless people compels the Author to ask: Where is the spirit of Ubuntu or Africanism? How do you feel after that gross mistreatment of Connolly and his workers who are your brothers and sisters? Shame, shame on you Ndhlukula”. The foolish argument by His Excellence President Mugabe is to reclaim “our land” stolen from is by the colonialists. But there is a proverb which says two wrongs do not make a right.

The same Laiton (2014) made yet another spine chilling story in December 2014 of lawless ZANU PF youths (Weevils) invade Mutasa nephew’s (Gamatox) farm. More details on the sordid story in just a moment.

ZANU PF youths invade Mutasa Nephew’s farm (Laiton 2014)

A progressive Makoni farmer Dumisani Daniel Mliswa was reported having filed an urgent High Court application seeking an interdict and spoliation order against ZANU PF youths who allegedly invaded the farm in November 2014. Mliswa, who is a brother of the ruling ZANU Party’s deposed Mashonaland West provincial chairperson Temba Mliswa said the unruly ZANU PF youths invaded his 543-hectare Mepo farm in Makoni district accusing him of being related to ousted Presidential Affairs Minister Honourable Didymus Mutasa. In his application filed in mid December 2014, Mliswa cited Hunzvi district war veteran’s security head and treasurer Samuel Chirinda alongside other party activists, Roderick Erengwe, Marshal Erengwe, Norbett Kuwanda, Israel Zvamwoyo and the Land and Rural Resettlement Minister Honourable Douglas Mombeshora, as respondents. Mliswa said some time in 2007 he was issued with an offer letter for the farm. But he said the farm was invaded on 23 November 2014.

“My farm was invaded by a group of people led by the first to fifth respondents. The group indicated that they were invading the farm on account of who I was related to, I have an uncle who is a prominent politician who is not popular with these so called land invaders”, Mliswa said in apparent reference to Mutasa.

“I advised the police about the invasion immediately but was not favoured with an immediate response to my plight. On November 25, 2014 I wrote to the Senior Police Commissioner together with the Officer Commanding Propal Manicaland imploring them to uphold the rule of law and provide me with the protection I am entitled to from the invaders” (Laiton 2014).

Mliswa said the invaders temporarily left after which he discovered that some of his cattle were missing.

“In addressing the damage I discovered that three head of cattle were missing. In addition to the cattle the invaders had also helped themselves to at least 41 asbestos sheets and 6 seven metre long gum poles. I reported the matter at the local police station and a docket was opened under reference number RB2215644”, Mliswa said.

On 1 December 2014 Mliswa further said the invaders returned to occupy his farm and when he engaged the police to assist he was advised to engage the Courts. In his apposing affidavit, Chirinda said:

“I don’t know the applicant (Mliswa), but I have been made to understand that he does not reside in Zimbabwe and is currently in the United Kingdom. It is to my knowledge that the applicant’s name is being used as a front by the real people interested in the farm”

He further said the farm had been lying idle since 2007 when the previous white owner was ejected.

“The farm was purportedly allocated to applicant with the involvement of his uncle then Minister of Lands Honourable Didymus Mutasa in 2007. As far as I know I have not invaded his farm or any farm at all. The applicant made a report to police who came to the farm and found out that there were no such occupiers as alleged”, he added (Laiton 2014).

The blatant disregard to the rule of law and the mere occupation of someone’s private property again his will is a show of no respect for other people’s property rights. Hence the decision by the 27 nation European Union including the United States of America and the rest of the Western world imposing a raft of punitive assets and travel sanctions on His Excellence President Mugabe and his cabal to stop these apparent gross human rights abuses. This again resonates with the statement that the Zimbabwe Fast Track Land Reform Programme is a recipe for calamitous socio-economic implications for poor Zimbabwe and its people.

Moyo (2014) of the leading Zimbabwe Independent quite rightly drew the attention of its readership to the maxim that Government piecemeal land reform changes were a recipe for more chaos to tarnish the image of the country as an investor spooking destination. He found time to take us through his valuable contribution to the discourse in this Paper.

Gvt’s piecemeal land reform changes recipe for more chaos (Moyo 2015)

The ruling ZANU PF party’s admission of chaos and confusion in its much hyped Land Reform Programme and subsequent proposals to undo some of its unsavory aspects, particularly the land grabs from indigenous Zimbabweans, highlight all too clearly the unacceptable logic of ancient wisdom that fools will do in the end what the wise would have done in the beginning.

While the hype during the 2-7 December 2014 congress was His Excellence President Mugabe and his wife First Lady Grace Mugabe taking turns to heap burning coal on hapless former Vice President Joice Mujuru, accused of plotting to topple His Excellence President Mugabe, the ruling ZANU PF quietly owned up to its errors in acquiring land from foreign investors and black Zimbabweans.

“There are indigenous Zimbabweans who had their farms acquired and resettled”, read part of the Central Committee report presented at the Congress.

“The party strongly feels that such acquisition should not have been done as it is tantamount to taking land from an indigenous person to empower another. Hence where practically possible, the indigenous persons should be given back their farms and people resettled thereon relocated”.

There was yet another admission that the acquisition of farms owned by foreign investors protected under the Bilateral Investment Promotion Protection agreements (BIPPAS) is problematic and should be stopped for now as the cash-squeezed government does not have the funds to pay the required “compensation”. A decision has to be taken by ZANU PF and government that we avoid acquiring for now, BIPPA-protected farms to limit the country’s obligations”, the ZANU PF party said in its report (Moyo 2014).

After years of specious claims over the success of the controversial programme, which commenced in 2000 and saw more than 6 000 mainly white commercial farmers kicked off their land sometimes violently, there were further sobering revelations that little had been paid to them by way of compensation.

“The funds provided have been inadequate to the extent that up to 2014 only 210 out of 6214 former farm owners have been paid either fully or partially for improvements. To date only 1250 out of 6214 farms have been valued”, read the Central Committee report.

While it is encouraging it is all well and good that the party had admitted behind closed doors the error of its ways, there are grave doubts whether it will act on its recommendations to rectify the wrongs. Some of the indigenous Zimbabweans whose grabbed land was later seized include High Court Judge Ben Hlatshwayo whose Gwina farm (in Banket, Mashonaland West Province) was in 2008 acquired by the First Lady, Grace Mugabe (Moyo 2014).

Academic and political commentator Pedzisai Ruhanya said such pronouncements, especially on the BIPPA issue, suggest ZANU PF now wants to do business with the international community, hence the talk about doing things the proper way and refraining from violating Bilateral agreements. The breakdown of the rule of law, precipitated by, among other factors, the land invasions, saw the West impose sanctions on Zimbabwe resulting in the country acquiring pariah status.

“Seeing as the land reform is no longer reversible as it is now a constitutional issue agreed to even by the MDC formations, what now needs to be done is the rationalization to make the land commercially viable and also to respect BIPPAS so the country can do business with the international community”, said Ruhanya.

He, however, said it is unlikely that the party would go beyond “peacemeal and cosmetic changes in place of wholesale reforms as this would negatively affect their political capital which was constructed upon expropriating the land and parceling it out on partisan grounds to build up a patronage systems. Historical and current developments also suggest local and international stakeholders need not hold their breath as ZANU PF would rather continue with self-serving populist measures than implement sound socio-economic policies. Only in June 2014 His Excellence President Mugabe launched A1 permits which he said would give the farmers security of tenure and act as collateral but the Central Committee report admits that 99-year leases have failed to find takers in the banking sector as farmers continue to struggle to access loans. Even government owned banks are not accepting the permits. Last month the Zimbabwe Independent visited an Agribank branch in Bulawayo and was told by one of the officials that they have no communication from government to give out loans. We just read about it in the newspapers (Moyo 2014).

This means that the 164 064 families the ruling ZANU PF claims to have given land from 2000 to the present day are in a trap, holding on to what the Commercial Farmers’ Union (CFU) described as dead capital as they are unable to access loans.

“People that were given land are in a trap, because they do not have the ability to raise capital through banking institutions unless they have alternative properties in the urban areas against which they can borrow”, said the Commercial Farmers’ Union (CFU) Charles Taffs in an interview with the Zimbabwe Independent newspaper, adding “so we have a situation where we have a lot of land lying idle and people have got themselves into debt. Many have even gone into contract farming in that you have the primary produce of your inputs being the purchase of your inputs; you become a slave to the system” (Moyo 2014).

Taffs, in the presence of the current CFU president Peter Steyl, also said while the land reform programme had indeed increased the number of commercial farmers, the manner in which this was done was achieved by sub-dividing huge farms was detrimental to large scale operations.

“Most of the farms were designated as a unit and they are now being cut up so that you have one person getting the dam, another the arable land and another the house – and how will they operate?” asked Steyl.

“It is like taking apart a car engine and giving the various parts to different people and expecting it to function”.

While the ruling ZANU PF has owned up to the short-comings of its lawless land-grab it is unlikely that there will be significant changes by a party that thrives on populism rather than rationality. For now the chaos and confusion appears set to continue. It would have been a circus were it not for tragic consequences like serious grain deficits which recently forced the country to turn to once upon a time, lowly neighbours like Zambia and Malawi who used to import from this country during the pre-land reform era (Moyo 2014).

All this point to a Zimbabwe Fast Track Land Reform Programme teeming with calamitous socio-economic implications for Zimbabwe and its suffering masses.

Fifteen years down the line this calamitous socio-economic consequences associated with the Zimbabwe Fast Track Land Reform Programme never seem to subside. Mushava (2015) of the Standard newspaper came forward with a heart-stopping story that lions, elephants etc were being used as an excuse to kick Manzou villagers. Details coming your way in just a moment.

Lions, elephants used to kick out Manzou villagers (Mushava 2014)

That Zimbabwe is fast becoming a country of heartless people now is becoming increasingly undeniable. The researching Author caught up with Mushava (2015) of the weekly Standard newspaper to come across yet another spine chilling story associated with the much hyped Zimbabwe Land Reform Programme which used the excuse of lions and elephants to kick out Manzou villagers from Mazoe Estates which was their home for the past 15 years.

Parks and Wildlife Management Authority employees were in mid January 2015 busy fencing Manzou farm as they prepared to bring in the first batch of animals, reportedly lions and elephants. The callous move to bring in the dangerous animals according to the beleaguered villagers that are still living at the farm on the strength of a High Court order; is meant to force them out of the farm without the partisan police doing anything. There is still no move by the paranoid ZANU PF government to relocate the villagers to an alternative piece of land as clearly provided for by the court order. What this meant was that the hapless villagers will be chased away from the farm, their home for fifteen years, by the dangerous animals and they will not be able to go back to the courts to complain because it is the animals not the police that would have forced them. *Imimi Mwari dai zvimwe muchirambawo!* (meaning God forbid!) As many as 150 families were reported to be still on the farm because they have nowhere to go even though their houses and property were burnt down beginning of January 2015 during the brutal police eviction action (Moyo 2015).

Imagine that January marks the middle of summer season in Zimbabwe which means that their maize crop was destroyed before maturing. Schools were due to be open first week of January 2015 meaning the affected villagers would be permanent beggars with their children not attending school.

Aspinas Makufa – one of the villagers whose home was ruthlessly destroyed by the brutal police force in mid January 2015 – told the weekly Standard Newspaper that National Parks workers were on the ground erecting a fence in preparation for the first batch of animals.

“We feel the government is defying a court order by bringing animals here before we are relocated. They are using animals to drive us away so that they would not seem as if they are in contempt of court. If they bring lions here, we have no choice but to move away,” Makufa said.

It was not clear how a National Institution was getting involved in the construction of a fence on a private property said to belong to First Lady Grace Mugabe (49) who is putting up a personal multi-million dollar wild life sanctuary there. What would have been expected of National Parks was just to bring in the animals bought by the property owner but the business of making the place safe or protected would be left to the investor. Makufa added that over 150 villagers were still on Anold and Spenekem farms and were sleeping under trees, exposed to the vagaries of the weather. Heavy rains were reported to have fallen in the area (Moyo 2015).

But hardly two years these then homeless villagers must have been part of the millions of rural voters who overwhelmingly voted ZANU PF back into power. Bu ironically this is their big “thank you” from the heartless ZANU PF. Zwime imimi Mwari dai muchirambawo! (meaning God forbid!).

Although Provincial Affairs Minister Honorable Martin Dinha said First Lady Grace Mugabe had nothing to do with the callous evictions but sarcastically he admitted that the highly adored First Lady had been granted a wildlife licence to operate the sanctuary, a move that confirms reports that the villagers were being evicted to expand First Lady Grace Mugabe’s business empire in the plushy green valley. Parks spokesperson Carolina Washayamoyo was not available to give more light on who owns the prestigious sanctuary that gave them the instruction to fence the area. Anold and Spenenkem farms were cattle ranching farms when the villagers moved in at the height of the land reform programme in 2000. Police allegedly under the command of Grace, have also ordered 600 more families occupying the adjacent Cetic farm 1 o 4 to vacate. The farm forms part of Manzou Esate which the First Lady is said to be determined to turn into a Wildlife Park.

“We are sleeping in the open with our children and we are not building any structures as police officers are always patrolling the area and ordering us to leave despite the court order,” Makufa said.” They say they are now bringing in animals like elephants and lions. It means they

are technically now throwing us out. We have cattle and goats, so how can cohabit with lions?” asked the distraught Makufa (Moyo 2015).

While there is so much pushing and shoving of villagers at Manzou Estate Zimbabwe is in the firm grips of a starvation and food shortages spawned by a late start to the current summer season, dry spells and floods in some places. Again all these are pointers to a Zimbabwe Fast Track Land Reform Programme with calamitous socio-economic implications for Zimbabwe and its suffering masses.

Makufa, who together with other tormented villagers in mid January 2015 returned to the courts to have Home Affairs Minister Honourable Kembo Mohadi, Police Commissioner General Augustine Chihuri and Lands Minister Honourable Douglas Mombeshora arrested for contempt of court said that they were not resisting eviction, but that they did not have anywhere to go. With the coming in of elephants on Manzou, some villagers on surrounding farms were likely to be evicted. This would also mean the end of the Interfresh orange project as elephants would need roaming space. Elephants are known to love oranges and would stop at nothing to get to the nearby orange estate and in the process ravage the nearby maize and other crops to spark a public outcry in the neighbourhood (Moyo 2015).

The land reform programme is chief among other investor spooking policies cited for both foreign and local investors, shunning to invest in the investment starved nation. This point to a Zimbabwe in the form grip of calamitous socio-economic fundamentals which militate against the economic growth of the nation resulting in Zimbabwe acquiring a pariah status.

A First Lady such as Grace Mugabe is expected to be a servant of the people and not a habitual tormentor of the people as clearly exhibited in the last episodes and now in this episode. Senior Reporter (2015) of the Newsday is on standby to take us through the outcry over Grace's land grab, the second in a space of less than a month.

Outcry over Grace's land grabs (Senior Reporter 2015)

Human rights defenders and opposition political parties had condemned First Lady Grace Mugabe's land grab and continued expansion of her business empire in the Mazoe Valley at the expense of hundreds of resettled villagers. The rights campaigners had in early January 2015 described the recent eviction of over 200 families from Manzou farm and threats to kick out 600 more at Celtic farm in the Mazowe area to pave way for First Lady, Grace as a gross human rights violation. They said what made it more worrisome was that they were carried out in contravention of a standing High Court order issued last March. Human Rights Commission Chairperson Alec Muchadehama said it was painfully disturbing that the First Lady, who under

normal circumstances was regarded as a mother of the nation – had chosen to violate the law with reckless abandon.

“First the removal is unlawful, for the reason that the Constitution says there should be no eviction without a valid court order”, Muchadehama said.

“Its unfortunate because here you are dealing with human beings. You can’t treat them like that. This is a serious violation of human rights”

The affected villagers – whose grass-thatched houses were immediately set ablaze in a blitz led by armed police officers early this week – claimed that First Lady Grace wanted to expand her business and turn some of the land into a private wildlife sanctuary. What boggles the mind of a person who has the feeling for the affected poor villagers is that the First Lady has vast tracts of land in the area, some of it seized from Mazoe Citrus Estates where the First Lady is running a dairy project, Gushungo Dairies, an orphanage and an elite primary school (Senior Reporter 2015).

Dzimbabwe Chimbwa of the Zimbabwe Lawyers for human rights said that they are appalled by this violation of the Constitution which is clearly against human rights norms and international treaties such as the African Charter on Human Rights. He said the State should have first held consultations with the affected and made provisions for alternative settlement as stated in Justice Susan Mavhangura’s court order. MDC-T spokesperson Obert Gutu said the evictions were designed to feed into Grace’s “voracious land-grab escapade” carried out in violation of the law.

“Grace Mugabe has unlawfully and selfishly taken over the entire Mazowe Valley which is one of the most fertile farming areas in Zimbabwe. Poor peasants have been treated in a very inhuman and degrading manner by Grace Mugabe, who is corruptly abusing State power by disobeying a lawful order issued by the High Court”, Gutu a lawyer by profession said in a statement (Senior Reporter 2015).

Obert Gutu severely blamed the ruling ZANU PF party’s land seizure for causing the current economic crisis, adding that the ruling party’s ruinous land policy had relegated the country from a regional basket to a basket case. MDC Renewal Team spokesperson Jacob Mafume said the developments in Mazowe were morally wrong as villagers were being evicted without arrangements for alternative settlement or compensation being given.

“Not only is the conduct morally reprehensible, it is also legally untenable. You can’t evict people without giving them alternative accommodation particularly at the height of the rainy season”, he said.

“Some of those people had planted their crops and children are making preparations to go to school while there are also people who could be on antiretroviral treatment”.

A few months ago the First Lady Grace Mugabe declared her interest in acquiring additional land in the Mazowe Valley area to build a hospital, secondary school and Robert Mugabe University (Senior Reporter 2015).

White minority rule in pre-independent Rhodesia was much better than the black-to-black suppression that we witness today to once again rue the Zimbabwe fast track land reform programme of 2000 and its calamitous socio-economic consequences for the country and in particular the suffering Manzou villagers of Mazowe Estate in Mashonaland Central Province.

The discoursing in this Paper is dominated by the First Lady Grace Mugabe. For the third time in a row Madanhire (2015) is caught red-flagging the same First Lady Grace Mugabe to stop committing further human rights violations against the Manzou villagers. More details coming your way in just a moment.

Rein in First Lady Grace Mugabe (Madanhire 2015)

The recent inhuman eviction of over 200 villagers from Manzou farm in Mazowe, Mashonaland Province, to pave way for First Lady Grace Mugabe's private animal sanctuary can best be described as a callous act by a woman of her status. She ordered the removal of these inhabitants to expand her business empire which stretched from where her orphanage is located. Zimbabweans had learnt with utter shock that a woman whom society regards as a mother figure can be so "unfeeling and unsympathetic" to the hundreds of families that had been left homeless following the evictions. The underlying message in the evictions is clear that the First Lady does not want to live near commoners, hence would have animals surrounding her. Yet she is herself a commoner from Chivhu. Zimbabwe has no shortage of game parks which the First Lady can adopt and create an animal kingdom. But removing hapless villagers, who have absolutely nowhere to go is something that no woman with a motherly instinct can do. There was public outrage in early January 2015 after the partisan police swooped on the farm destroying houses and evicting families from the property which is also near First Lady Grace Mugabe's dairy farm and several other projects belonging to the First family. Mashonaland Central Provincial Affairs Minister Honourable Martin Dinha recently confirmed that the land was earmarked for the expansion of First Lady Grace Mugabe's private business projects, although he had initially distanced her from the property. It is regrettable that Honourable Dinha, like many of his ilk have become First Lady Grace Mugabe's poodles just to remain in the ZANU PF gravy train but against their conscience (Madanhire 2015)

The First Lady Grace Mugabe herself confirmed her interest in the land at one of her campaign rallies last year (2014) when she told ZANU PF youths that she wanted to take over the conservancy and use it to generate income for her orphanage. Although the High Court had

ordered the callous evictions to stop Honourable Dinha had nevertheless warned the affected villagers not to place much hope on the court order. The development demonstrates the kind of leadership that Zimbabweans will have to endure. It won't be surprising for the First Lady to order dismissal of the judge who made the ruling in favour of the poor villagers. The question to ask is: Why are they being evicted before alternative land has been found as has been ordered by the courts before? These people had obviously planted their maize crops to sustain them during the dry season but will soon become perpetual beggars without any hope of getting state support from the cash squeezed government. The fate of these resembles that of the estimated 3 000 Chingwizi Falk who, after they were pushed out of their farms by flash floods at Tokwe Mukosi Dam last year (2014), spent the better part of last year (2014) cramped at Chingwizi Transit Camp as government officials haggled where to resettle them. Finally the villagers were resettled at one hectare plots despite their clamour for more land to sustain themselves. With the First Lady Grace Mugabe as head of ZANU PF's all powerful Women's League it goes without saying that Zimbabweans in general and ruling party supporters in particular are headed for tough times given her blatant disregard for human rights. It appears Grace has absolutely no conscience at all as all she thinks of is herself and the stooges that surround her. Let us watch what will happen next (Madanhire 2015).

Again given the discursing in this paragraph there is no doubt that the Zimbabwe Fast Track Land Reform Programme and its calamitous socio-economic agenda is but a toxic brew for development to push Zimbabwe a step backward.

Given the upheavals unearthed in the land sector so far in this Paper the question to ask is: When will these woes in the land sector come to an end? Kunambura (2015) of the Financial Gazette has more details on the burning land reform issue.

Endless woes in land sector (Kumabura 2015)

Government failure to finalize its much hyped land reforms has created uncertainty in the agricultural sector while exposing ZANU PF policy shortcomings. In 2000 the former veterans of the liberation struggle that brought Zimbabwe independence in 1980 kick started violent land seizures targeting minority whites, giving birth to today's Fast Track Land Reform Programme. What boggles the mind is that 15 years on, the exercise is yet to reach finality. What has delayed its conclusion is primarily the discord around the controversial policy with the left hand contradicting what the right hand was doing. When the land reforms started it was government's objective to redress poor historical imbalances that had been entrenched by the colonial regime. Prior to the land reforms less than 4000 whites owned swathes of productive farms in then Rhodesia and later Zimbabwe with the majority of the people crammed in barren

communal lands. Fast track to 2015 ownership complexion of the land has gone through serious transformation but is still coming short of achieving equitable distribution of the resource. Over 300 000 indigenous blacks have benefited from the Fast Track Land Reform Programme with only a handful of whites remaining on their properties. It would appear that the exercise has largely benefited the elite as the majority of the poor people are still queuing to be allocated land. Government has been unclear on a number of issues relating to the land reforms. The major issue has been whether it should allow whites to continue to farm in Zimbabwe or not. While on paper the government has struggled to discriminate against whites, in reality it has made constant threats to chase them away from their properties. There has been conflict among the indigenous people themselves with cases of black farmers being disposed of their properties by fellow blacks being on the increase (Kunambura (2015).

Among the black farmers, productivity has been low, with large tracts of farms lying derelict. To improve productivity, government has in the past conducted land audits whose results have remained a guarded secret. There is talk of another commission of enquiry by Land Minister Honourable Douglas Mombeshora to see what could be done to improve production and end the confusion in the farming sector. The farmers accuse the government of being an impediment in their efforts to access funding from the banks which is vital to increase production. The main argument has been that they should be allowed to have title deeds to the properties which they can pledge to the banks as collateral. Banks have been hesitant to finance the new farmers because there is no recourse to the land in the event that the farmer has defaulted since every farm acquired under the Land redistribution exercise in Zimbabwe is considered State Land. Of late debate has centred on around government's renewed attempts to evict the remaining white commercial farmers. This follows recent remarks by two cabinet ministers who were quoted saying government would repossess all farms owned by remaining white farmers and ruled out joint ventures involving whites. The remarks were attributed to ministers Honourable Mombeshora and Honourable Matiza (Kunambura 2015).

The ruling party's gripe with the white commercial farmers started in 1999, when they were falsely accused of funding the Movement for Democratic Change led by Morgan Tsvangirai which historically has been ZANU PF's fiercest rival since independence from Britain in 1980. To weaken the opposition critics said ZANU PF sought to dispossess the white community of one of the means of production by reclaiming the land. Interestingly there has not been any willingness on the part of the ruling party's government to pass ownership of the resource to the indigenous farmers. This has led observers to conclude that land has become one of the tools at ZANU PF's disposal to perpetuate a patronage system which thrives in a patronage system involving surviving veterans of the liberation war, youths, women, traditional

leaders and other interest groups. While this network has ensured ZANU PF survival, in the rough and tumble of Zimbabwe politics, it has also exposed the ruling party to inflated demands from these groupings which it can no longer afford to ignore. Of late chiefs and various other interest groups have been clamouring for recognition in the distribution of land. Their demands have not gone unnoticed. Honourable Matiza has since revealed that government's new land policy would benefit diplomats, chiefs, war veterans, civil servants and others who missed out at the launch of the land reform programme in 2000 because of rampant corruption (Kunambura 2015).

His colleague, Honourable Mombeshora said, the remaining white farmers should be given 90 days to vacate their farms if the land has been offered to blacks to avoid legal battles. Ironically both statements came hardly a week after government announced it would allow long term joint ventures between black and white farmers. Analysts have criticized the inconsistencies in policy saying the soap opera land reform programme was a disaster to the economy. Political analyst Rashiweat Mukundu, said this kind of caustic politics has created a hideous situation over the noble idea of land redistribution, which should be national agenda.

"Political goodwill to make neat progress on land reform seems in short supply. This marks the height of policy inconsistency on the part of government. Agriculture being the mainstay of the economy there is need for improvement", said Mukundu.

"This is a clear case of political patronage whereby they use land as a political tool of control not an economic issue. For example the new idea of reserving land to special interest groups like chiefs as we have seen in Mashonaland East and war veterans while barring partnerships goes against the urgent need to resuscitate the struggling economy", he added.

Another analyst Alexander Rusero said every minister who has held the lands portfolio tends to have his own vision of land reform and does not hesitate to shake things up to cause public anxiety on the issue and dissipate expectations by making up illusions of motions without movement. In the end, the agricultural sector has not progressed.

"You have to look at the unfinished business of 1979 Lancaster House Conference whereby the power brokers ended up compromising certain issues, particularly the land issue to frog jump into independence to realize that the land reform programme is politically correct and economically wrong. It was all done by a regime which was facing a stiff challenge and wanted to use land as a tool to remain in power but the ills of such a move cannot be wished away. They are now glaringly manifesting", said Rusero (Kunambura 2015).

Regrettably land productivity has been pitifully low among the newly resettled black farmers. Consequently Zimbabwe, once touted as a regional food basket became a hopeless basket case feeding its people on food handouts from the philanthropic West which His

Excellence President Mugabe falsely accused of wanting to bring regime change to Zimbabwe, a charge that the West vehemently rebuts. All this point to a Zimbabwe Fast Track Land Reform Programme of 2000 spawning a calamitous socio-economic environment for the country and its people.

NM (2015) of the weekly Financial Gazette had a bang bang approach to the discoursing under debate in this Paper. NM (2015) has more details on his story –brief and to the point is what the Author liked about him.

Land Reform a sad tale to tell NM (2015)

Like a house on fire nm (2015) took off by appreciating the appalling headlines in the Financial Gazette of 29 January – 4 February 2015 such as “*Gvt grinding to a standstill*”, “*Sugar cane farmers drown in debt*” and “*Endless woes in the land sector*”, the continued downward plunge of our nation, Zimbabwe had become glaringly apparent. It also became very crystal clear that our agriculture and land and the politics which pertain to that were at the entre of the problem. An old Chinese problem tells us that when you go on the road or highway to seek revenge dig two graves. And this is how the paranoid ruling ZANU PF approached the issue of land in Zimbabwe; with revenge as their political agenda, and they have, indeed, dug two graves; one for the innocent white commercial farmer and the other for themselves in the ruling ZANU PF party. What a sad tale Zimbabwe has to tell. Land, like confetti after a wedding ceremony was chaotically haphazardly and forcibly through violence, rape and murder parceled out to people who most of them are not putting to productive use. This fiasco had brought Zimbabwe down to its knees. ZANU PF needs to go back to the drawing board, open up all commercial land to all Zimbabwean farmers home and away, irrespective of race, colour, clan, creed tribe or political affiliation who have the experience, know how and desire to farm (NM 2015).

If government had approached all under-utilized land, land from farmers who had more than one farm and maybe cut up large pieces of land leaving most of our expertise intact to mentor, teach and assist new farmers, we would have a completely happy tale to tell today. All commercial or A2 farms should be surveyed and offered to interested Zimbabweans who are willing and able. The money coming from the sale of land should be used to compensate dispossessed ex-commercial farmers for the loss and wholesale theft of their assets and infrastructure. The land should run as a business and used as collateral and be able to be bought and sold. It would be extremely healthy for the nation – ever in sorrowful crying – I am suffocating. Please help me. An exercise such as this, although painful at the onset, will go a long way in putting our so called Christian nation right in the eyes of God and with each other and it will benefit the economy largely (NM 2015).

Uyu ndiye mutongi gava manje (meaning there is a wise councillor for you). He did not beat about the bush fires. But straight and to the point. Not only that but said it as it is on the ground without fear, favour or prejudice. Because of the chaotic land reform programme Zimbabwe was politically and socio-economically hurtling towards a precipice.

That the Fast Track Land Reform Programme of 2000 adopted by government in pomp and fanfare has largely gone awry is not an overstatement. Takesure (2015) has more details on the story that promises a good prospect for the Reader.

Learn from land plunder mistakes (Takesure 2015)

Evidence on the ground for all to see point to the much hyped Fast Track Land Reform Programme of 2000 which had largely gone awry for the country once touted a regional food basket to acquire a new status of a pariah state in a Southern African Development Community (SADC) region of modest economic growth. Zero or underutilization of land meant for commercial agriculture is now the norm rather than the exception in a country reduced to a hopeless basket case. Rather than political or racial criteria, the land reform programme needs a scientific bankable basis for allocating land. Land allocation guidelines should be reviewed so that any land being pro-productively used is not allocated. There is a lot of under-utilized land, some idle for a number of reasons. Actuaries of those allocations may now have passed on from natural causes. Agritex officials may be very well be aware a further third or more may not even be utilizing their land for commercial agriculture (Takesure 2015).

At best the ill-funded and equipped farmers are now trapped in subsistence farming, which is a terrible waste of commercial farming land. It is therefore time to rope in banks in the allocation of A2 farms. Once land is identified those interested in leasing the farm must only be given a provisional offer alongside three or four others. They should register a company to farm the land and present a business plan complete with viable financing plan in which the bank may participate by way of extending loans only once ratified or approved by the bank and financing secured and directors appointed, may the offer be converted from a provisional one to a firm one, the offer going to the bidder with the best business plan in particular the investment side. Last but not least restoring title deeds and re-establishing a market for land may be the more viable solution. The nation must learn from its mistakes (Takesure 2015).

Poorly funded and equipped farmers are trapped in subsistence farming which is a failure under the chaotic Fast Track Land Reform Programme to spell doom for agriculture, the mainstay of the economy after mining.

Mwari haazi wemunhu mumwechete. Ndewedu tose. (meaning one man for himself God for us all) or pessimistic Manzou villagers and their search for a silver lining. The two

proverbs are true for the hapless Manzou villagers. After being trampled upon by the elite in the ruling ZANU PF the Gods finally smiled at the Manzou villagers when a human rights lawyer approached the courts demanding compensation. Mushava (2015) has more details on the dream come true story on the long time persecuted Manzou villagers.

Manzou villagers demand US\$180 000 compensation (Mushava 2015)

Hundreds of villagers who were in January 2015 ordered to vacate Manzou village to pave way for First Lady Grace Mugabe's planned wild life sanctuary amid a public outrage are at long last demanding a compensation of over US\$180 000 for loss of their homes and crops after a human rights lawyer, Kennedy Masiye offered to help to give them his legal services. Kennedy Masiye, a human rights lawyer representing the villagers said he was in the process of drafting a letter of intention to sue the heartless government for the loss of property for his hapless villagers. He said so far 110 of the 195 affected villagers had submitted their claims ranging between US\$1 500 and US\$9 000 each.

"Very soon we will deliver those letters" Masiye said. "We intend to sue government for compensation. We are in the process of drafting letters of intention to sue government as it is required by law. Some villagers are still coming with their claims" (Mushava 2015).

The villagers invaded Manzou Estate at the height of government's Fast Track Land Reform Programme in 2000 and had their rebuilt homes destroyed on several occasions. Early in 2015, the High Court had ordered government to allow them to stay on the land until alternative land had been identified. However, the clueless government only recently provided land for only five villagers leaving the remainder of 195 others in the cold. According to one of the villagers, Aspinas Makufa, government was fencing Celtic farm 1 to 4, Spenkelen, Glenbevia and Maxdale farms, which form part of Manzou Estate to pave way to wildlife conservation at the expense of the villagers. Makufa said the compensation being sought by the 110 families at the time stood at above US\$180 000 (Mushava 2015).

The callous and brutal destruction of the villagers' homes and crops in the middle of a cropping summer season was against a High Court order which stipulated that no destruction of villagers' homes until after government had provided alternative place to resettle the villagers had been found to resonate with the popular claim that the Fast Track Land Resettlement Programme was largely carried out in breach of the law to spark the onset of calamitous socio-economic implications for those whose land was repossessed without compensation.

In yet another example of endless woes in the land sector sparked by the Fast Track Land Reform Programme of 2000 Nyabadza, a prominent ZANU PF member in the Rusape

area and the Rusape Council were reported at loggerheads over a farm. Masekesa (2015) of the Newsday had more details on the nasty story.

Nyabadza, Rusape Council at loggerheads over farm (Masekesa 2015)

In yet a fresh example of an emerging woe in the land sector, a top ZANU PF official in the Rusape area and Agricultural and Rural Authority (ARDA) chairperson, Bazil Nyabadza was reportedly in locked horns with Rusape Town Council after he allegedly grabbed Stone farm which was gazette for compulsory acquisition in 2001 and set aside for the town's expansion programme. Council chairperson Amon Chawasarira recently appealed to Local Government Minister Honourable Ignatius Chombo's intervention in a bid to repossess the disputed land which had been unincorporated into the Town's master plan in 2001. Chawasarira's move came after it emerged that Nyabadza had mortgaged part of the farm measuring 891 hectares to CBZ Bank for US\$3.4 million. The bank, which had already subdivided the land into residential plots, in September 2014 had written to the Rusape Town Council seeking transfer of the property into its name.

"We are attending to the transfer of the above property and request your rates clearance certificate to enable us to prepare our transfer documents", said Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe (CBZ) lawyers Mawere and Sibanda legal Practitioners in a letter dated September 18, 2014.

"We advise as follows: The seller is recorded as ECR Mordit (Pvt) Limited of 16892, Sande Crescent, Avondale, Harare. The purchaser is recorded as CBZ Limited of 8 Kwame Nkrumah Avenue, Harare. The property description is the Remainder of Rockingstone, held under deed of transfer 6653/99 dated 30th June 1999 measuring 891.3761 hectares", the bank added.

In his appeal to Honourable Chombo, Chawasarira argued: "Government policy is clear that land allocated under the land reform programme should not be sold. Our query is why Nyabadza was allowed to sell that property. Can you allow someone to walk scot-free after committing such a transgression because he belongs to ZANU PF" (Masekesa 2015).

He added: "We have been to the Ministry of Lands seeking redress. Curiously nobody else in the Ministry is voicing any concerns publicly about the issue leaving council wondering if it follows that those in ZANU PF should do such shocking things with impunity to satisfy their ego and greediness. Rusape does not have land to develop. New Local Government permanent secretary George Mlilo confirmed that some "greedy" politicians were employing tactics to frustrate local authorities from taking over farms that fall within their master plans.

“We are aware of people who took gazetted land on the pretence of farming and are taking advantage of their political muscles to bully local authorities and defy their orders. They must surrender those farms for urban development”, said Mlilo without elaborating.

He said this had left some local authorities without land for urban expansion, yet government policy was clear that whoever took gazetted state land on pretence of farming should give it back when the need for urban expansion arises (Masekesa 2015).

The story in this paragraph point to senior ZANU PF party officials stealing land under the Fast Track Land Reform Programme and walking away scot-free at the expense of lack of development by a local authority like Rusape Town Council. Lack of development for Rusape Town Council will actively affect the bigger partner which is lack of economic development for Zimbabwe to negatively impact the socio-economic well being of its citizenry. Look at the recent xenophobic attacks against foreigners in South Africa. About 3 million Zimbabweans are in South Africa and abroad, thanks to His Excellence President Mugabe’s misrule of Zimbabwe – and Zimbabwe Fast Track Land Reform Programme and its calamitous socio-economic implications is one of them.

The height of lawlessness the world over is to show disrespect for the Almighty God by storming the church to disturb a church service in process to demand land that is legally and rightfully not yours. In another example of endless woes in the land sector 1000 unruly ZANU PF youths had stormed a church to demand land that is not theirs. Manayiti (2015) has more details on the nerve wrecking story.

ZANU PF youths storm church over land (Manayiti 2015)

Kangoma karirisi kuda kupaduka (Meaning the end game of a drab soccer match). There is no better way to signal the end game for ZANU PF than to witness 1000 drunk ZANU PF youths storm into a church with a service in progress demanding land that is not theirs. At least 1000 ZANU PF youths had on 26 April 2015 stormed St Mary’s Anglican Church in the dormitory town of Chitungwiza and disrupted the service demanding an audience with church’s leadership over a piece of land they wanted to grab and subdivide into residential stands not for the general populace but for party members; the youth some of whom appeared dead drunk, sang and chanted party slogans as they took hostage and blocked church members from leaving the premises for over three hours. They only dispersed following the intervention of riot police. You can imagine the crazy drive from the party youths hopelessly drunk – the church was, for no wrong doing at all accused of illegally grabbing the disputed 82 hectares of land from local people during the colonial era. The disputed land is located between St Marys Police Station and Chikwanha business centre. The rowdy party youths were clad in ZANU PF regalia and

were addressed by ZANU PF Innocent Hamandishe before he met church leadership over the matter.

“We were directed by our leadership, Hamandishe who is a Central Committee member. The land should be in our hands because the church gained it after killing our forefathers”, said Tendai Mutisi, one of the party youths”.

As the drunk youths marched towards the land at the centre of controversy another party activist shouted: “We are here to take this land. No one in the church has the capacity to stop us. This is our land and we have to take it over”(Manayiti 2015).

Contacted for comment, ZANU PF national spokesperson Simon Khaya Moyo said: “I do not know who these youths are and nobody has given me a report concerning that, but as a party we do not promote any form of indiscipline. We are a disciplined party and we would want our members to know that we have a constitution which everyone should abide by. We are not happy with that report”.

Efforts to contact Hamandishe after the image tainting fracas was fruitless as his mobile went unanswered. Parish leader Reverend Norman Nyawo said the uncalled for incident had left most of his congregants traumatized as they feared that the marauding youths could break into main auditorium and harm congregants.

“Emotionally we were disturbed. I think their intentions were to instill fear in the congregants”, Nyawo said. “We started the church at 8 am and the youths came around 9am and we understand a few of them called the precast wall clad in their party regalia. We continued with the service but everyone was disturbed. We finally had a meeting with their committee and they insisted that we should address the majority of the youths who were outside the gate”.

Nyawo had insisted that the land legally and rightfully belonged to the church saying that they would soon take the matter to stop the ZANU PF youths who had already parceled out some of the land among themselves. He added the church had plans to build a polytechnic college or a vocational training centre at the site. Spokesperson for the Anglican Bishop in Diocese of Harare, Precious Shumba severely condemned the disturbances and appealed to ZANU PF to reign in its rowdy supporters.

“ZANU PF the ruling party has an obligation to maintain peace in Zimbabwe, just as it is the responsibility of every Zimbabwean”, Shumba said.

“The Anglican Church’s land belongs to the church for the expansion of its health and educational programmes. Not every unused land is available for subdivision into residential stands. The President and his cabinet have a responsibility to every Zimbabwean to respect and uphold the provisions of the Constitution regarding property rights. As the Anglican Church,

we urge the police to maintain law and order. Political parties should desist from pursuing populist positions that undermine the government's efforts to unite the citizens around the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable socio-economic transformation" (Manayiti 2015).

He added: "Investors and other international observers are all watching how the government respects the rule of law. The church provides a safe space to all people and for any political activist to disrupt a church service is the height of lawlessness.

"Anglicans are urged to remain united and recall the persecution they overcame during the five years of exile" (This was in reference to the legal battle between Bishop Chad Gandiya and defrocked Archbishop Nolbert Kunonga over the control of the Anglican Church).

"The latest assault on our religious institution should be viewed in the light of the exile conflict which undermined our fundamental rights to freedom of worship".

The notorious invasions had started just before Easter Holidays and almost turned violent after MDC-T youths also demanded a share of the land (Manayiti 2015).

The Western churches such as the Roman Catholic and the Anglican churches – to name just a few are responsible for bringing civilization to the dark continent of Africa. And for someone to just wake up one morning and say the Anglican Church killed our forefathers to steal our land is rank madness fuelled by the Zimbabwe Fast Track Land Reform Programme and its calamitous socio-economic implications for Zimbabwe and its starving people.

To seek redress to the uncalled for invasion of their land the Anglicans had appealed to Honourable Vice-President Munangagwa. Manayiti of the Newsday had more on the story.

Anglicans appeal to Munangagwa over land invasion (Manayiti 2015)

Incensed by the uncalled for invasion of its legally owned land, the Anglican Church had appealed to Vice-President Honourable Emmerson Munangagwa and ZANU PF Secretary for Administration Honourable Ignatius Chombo to stop with immediate effect, the invasion of its land by unruly ruling party youths in the dormitory town of Chitungwiza. The appeal comes after at least 1000 youths besieged the church's St Mary's assembly in Chitungwiza on 25 April 2015 where they held the congregants hostage for about three hours, demanding to be allowed to subdivide the church's 82 hectare plot in the dormitory town into residential stands. The youth led by the party's central committee member Innocent Hamandishe, are claiming the land was illegally acquired by the Church during the colonial era. Precious Shumba spokesperson for the Anglican Bishop in the Diocese of Harare yesterday said the church had decided to engage ZANU PF's top leadership after the youth's remained defiant.

“The Anglican Diocese appeals to the Minister of Local government (Chombo) and Vice-President Emmerson Munangagwa to intervene and protect the church from this unwarranted harassment”, said Shumba. “We trust that their offices will attend to this issue as a matter of priority”. The Anglican Church has been in Zimbabwe for a very long time and has provided education, health and religious services to Zimbabweans occupying different spaces of life including ministers and ZANU PF supporters, among others. We are appealing to Minister Chombo to attend to the issue and stop this unlawful occupation of our church property. Illegality has no space in the democratic space of Zimbabwe”, he said (Manayiti 2015).

Anglican Church leaders from St Mary’s said the situation was tense and the ZANU PF youths were still parceling stands on the disputed land suggesting the appeal could have fallen on deaf ears (Manayiti 2015).

According to the ZANU PF sloganeering a few years ago it says: “Land is the economy. The economy is the land. Put differently the import of this message is that land in Zimbabwe is pivotal to its economy. But what has been reported happening about the land since the start of discoursing in this Paper is a contradiction of this slogan coined by ZANU PF to give land top priority. The onset of repossessing the land from the white commercial farmers to correct the colonial land imbalances, the Connolly commercial farmer saga near Beitbridge, the Mutasa nephew’s farm invasion near Rusape, government’s piecemeal land reform changes taken as recipe for more chaos in the land sector, the public outcry over Grace’s land grab, lions, elephants used to kick out Manzou villagers, the outcry to rein in Grace Mugabe’s more land grabs, the admission that land reform is a sad tale to tell, the admission of endless woes in the land sector, the land plunder mistakes in the land sector, Nyabadza and Rusape Council at loggerheads over farm, Manzou villagers demand compensation for destruction of their homes and crops and the report that ZANU PF youths storm church over land point to one large socio-economic disaster – the Zimbabwe Fast Track Land Reform Programme of year 2000 and its calamitous socio-economic implications point to a dying Zimbabwe and its economy. This takes us to the end of discoursing in this Paper. Up in the next paragraph is the Paper Summary.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIVE REMARKS

The Introduction of the Paper features the revenge mission of the Fast Track Land Reform Programme – to repossess land from the 6 000 white commercial farmers to correct the colonial land imbalance which was in favour of the white minority while the majority blacks were crowded in the barren communal lands located in the Native Reserves. After the soul searching Introduction came the spine chilling story of white commercial farmer, Connolly who owns a productive farm near Beitbridge. Ndhlukula, a presidential aide employs a baboon and monkey

trick that His Excellence President Mugabe wanted the white farmer out yesterday to pave the way for Ndhlovu. Employing the internecine factional and succession wars in the ruling ZANU PF, youths invade Mutasa's farm in the Rusape area to gain a measure of revenge by the Weevils (Mugabe headed) over the Mujuru faction (Gamatox) characterizing the Fast Track Land Reform Programme were piecemeal land reform changes which were a recipe for chaos. The first thrust was black versus white followed by black versus black.

The next three consecutive episodes in the continuing discoursing features The First Lady Grace Mugabe torching a public outcry over from government self serving land grabs. Next was the use of lions, elephants to kick out peasants who voted ZANU PF back into power so that the insensitive First Family would have animals surrounding it in place of the rural commoners. And last but not least was another public outcry to rein in First Lady Grace who after targeting 200 villagers for eviction, was this time targeting 600 villagers for possible eviction and in all cases to pave way for an animal sanctuary. NM (2015) of the weekly Financial Gazette was lamenting that land reform in Zimbabwe was a sad story to tell.

While Kunambura (2015) of the weekly Financial Gazette was lamenting endless woes in the land sector, Takesure of the Newsday was giving ZANU PF a rude awakening to learn from the land plunder mistakes one of which is reducing Zimbabwe, once a regional food basket to a pariah state. The pessimistic Manzou villagers' search in clouds led them to locating a silver lining when a human rights lawyer, Masiye assisted them to recover compensation for their destroyed homes and crops amounting to US\$180 000.

While Masekela (2015) was reporting a sad story of Nyabadza a senior ZANU PF member stealing land earmarked for Rusape Town Council future housing development, Manayiti was reporting an equally sad story that unruly ZANU PF youths, some of them dead drunk, were reported storming a church in the dormitory town of Chitungwiza to demand land that is not legally theirs. And finally the Anglican Church had appealed to Vice-President Honourable Emmerson Munangagwa to intervene to stop further invasion of the church's land.

At the end, it could be concluded that the Zimbabwe Fast Track Land Reform Programme has calamitous socio-economic consequences for Zimbabwe and its people which is true. With the Conclusion now done and dusted up next are the recommendations which are primarily designed to address what was not done right vis-à-vis the Zimbabwe Fast Track Land Resettlement to fuel calamitous socio-economic consequences for Zimbabwe and its people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the poor land management under the Fast Track Land Reform Programme as exposed by the study carried out in this Paper, land being the economy and the economy being the land,

a severe food deficit is what awaits the nation after the 2014/15 cropping season. The perennially cash squeezed government must therefore move with speed to mitigate the drought that is likely to hit the country. The blame must not be entirely heaped on drought but also on the land management under the chaotic land reform programme (Madanhire 2015).

The meteorological service department has already said the rainy season had ended prematurely with very little rain expected throughout the country before the onset of the dry season. Vice-President Honourable Emmerson Munangagwa has admitted there is going to be a serious shortage of food and government was already doing something to mitigate this. His counterpart at the Agriculture ministry Honourable Joseph Made said an Agriculture Research and Extension Services team was on the ground carrying out a rapid assessment programme which would bring out the real food needs ward by ward. The worst hit provinces will be the southern and south-western ones which include Masvingo, Matabeleland South and Matabeleland North. Manicaland in the east is also very vulnerable. Reports indicate crops in these regions were already wilting. The staple maize which was already tasselling is said to be particularly hard hit by lack of rain. The Mashonaland provinces seem to be doing fine but they cannot feed the whole nation (Madanhire 2015).

The country requires 1 384 000 tonnes of grain for human consumption and 350 000 tonnes for livestock and other uses and has to import if the harvest is below these requirements. Munangagwa should push government to move fast to ensure all processes including logistics are in place for a massive food importation programme. But the cash squeezed government has no money to carry out the food importation programme. The socio-economic consequences of food shortages are not only far reaching but too ghostly to contemplate. They hit hardest the children in vulnerable communities. Already reports indicate that thousands of school children have dropped out of school and most of these are girls who are sacrificed for an early marriage to raise money for the upkeep of the rest of the family (Madanhire 2015).

Yes there is mention of drought for all these upheavals in the land sector but the endless turmoil in the land sector is a major factor that cannot be ruled out. Why the endless woes in the land sector? Bugalo (2015) has more details on this burning issue in 'Where is the spirit of Ubuntu'.

More often than not we are defined as African not just because of the skin pigment of melanin that we are so gifted with, but because of the spirit Africanism often referred to as Ubuntu. We should take note that we in Zimbabwe are a country of different races, cultures with different traditions. We, however have an innate code that distinguishes us. In spite of our differences, we have managed to co-exist for a long time. However, most recently we have seen a spate of xenophobic attacks in South Africa, an attack of black people by fellow blacks.

In Zimbabwe, some 15 years ago in the year 2000 we watched in utter despair and helplessness as blacks turned against the white commercial farmers dispossessing them of their land to correct the colonial land imbalances which were heavily steeped in favour of the minority whites who owned the bulk of the fertile land in the country while the majority blacks were overcrowded in Native Reserves with poor soils. Lately the land repossessions have been a black versus a black because one was a Weevil (Mugabe faction) while the other was a Gamatox (Mujuru faction). The question we ask is how do you repossess land from your brother and sister and not feel the pain? How do you repeat the same act time and again without remorse? (Bugalo 2015).

Our mothers taught us that everyone was a relative, which is why we do not have distant cousins as the English would say – we have sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces and they are never described as close or distant cousins. So how then in Zimbabwe do we fight and kill our own brothers and sisters –over land for that matter? Now in all this we begin to question if the world is coming to an end as the Bible elucidates? The Women Institute for Leadership Development (WILD) strongly condemns patriarchal tendencies, cultural and traditional prejudices haunting the girl child and women in both Islamic and Christian religions. These developments have tended to disregard human life, leading to faith based wars that result in deaths and abduction of numerous children particularly the girls and women of the weaker sex. It is surprising however that these religions all converge to worship God yet their distinct doctrines implore them to inflict violence against each other (Bugalo 2015).

WILD believes that human rights should be observed and governments in Africa should unite to prove the power of Ubuntu. Ubuntu is a gesture showing human kindness and encouraging collectivism and solidarity. WILD strongly advocates for the adherence to the values of Ubuntu that will allow Africans to desist from violent acts emanating from ethnic, racial or religious differences. WILD advocates for peaceful environments where women can participate in public spaces without fear of being hurt or attacked. In violent environments socio-economic development is stifled and women are the most affected by lack of development (Bugalo 2015).

But the Zimbabwe Fast Track Land Reform Programme and its calamitous socio-economic consequences for Zimbabwe and its people is a complete negation of the socio-economic values as espoused by WILD in the above paragraph.

All said and done the Author is now duty bound to reassure the Reader that all said and done in this Paper was above board. This can only be achieved via a Statement on the Key Assumption, the details of which are up and coming.

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