

AN ASSESSMENT OF POST SETTLEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR RESTITUTION
BENEFICIARIES: EXPERIENCES FROM CAPRICORN DISTRICT, SOUTH AFRICA

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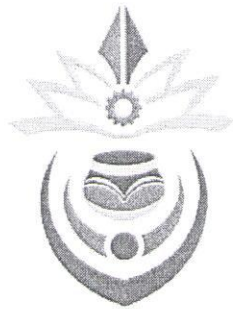
EPHENIA MOSADI KEKANA

(11523417)

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Development (MRDV)

Centre for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation,

School of Agriculture,



University of Venda

Supervisor: Dr. P. K. Chauke

Co- Supervisor: Dr. J. B. Zuwarimwe

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ABSTRACT

The elected government of South Africa introduced land reform policies after 1994 to redress the impacts of racially based policies of the former government. While the land reform program was applauded for delivery of land, it has been heavily criticized for failing to support new beneficiaries, resulting in limited production and sometimes total collapse of formerly productive commercial farms. This study assessed the impacts of post settlement support programs on restitution beneficiaries in the Capricorn District. The main objective was to analyze land use, income generating activities and post settlement services provided to beneficiaries in the district. Data were obtained from records from projects, local municipalities in the Capricorn District, Department of Agriculture, electronic and the print media. Legal entities (project leaders) of twelve projects and a total of ninety-one household beneficiaries were also interviewed in the survey that collected primary data for the study. Purposive and systematic random sampling methods were used to select respondents. Data were collected through semi and structured questionnaires, and focus group discussion with legal entities, household representatives and local extension officers respectively.

The survey revealed that 97% of restored land in the Capricorn District Municipality was utilized for agricultural purposes. Beneficiaries utilized only 46% of the land while 51% was leased out to non-beneficiaries. The survey also found that the land was farmed communally. Regarding income generating activities, the study found that livestock sales and leasing were the main income sources for restitution projects. Livestock sales contributed 5%, while lease rental contributed 4% of income generated. The remaining 91% were from sales of citrus products. On post settlement support provided to projects, the study revealed that technical advice was the only support service provided satisfactorily (100%). Major challenges faced by restitution projects were lack of funding, infrastructure, production inputs and training. The study recommend for a campaign to expose the intention of the restitution programme, provision of breeding stock to beneficiaries coupled with training and coordinated efforts by affected government agencies.

Key words: land reform, restitution, land allocation, land use, income generating activities and post settlement support