

**Investigation into the Benefits of Land Restitution on Restored Farms
in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality in the Greater Sekhukhune
District of Limpopo Province**

by

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DECLARATION

I declare that the (mini-dissertation) hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo for the degree of Masters in Development has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other University, that it is my work in design and in execution and that all material contained herein has been duly acknowledged.

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Date

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to investigate the benefits realized by the beneficiaries of restitution program in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality under Greater Sekhukhune District in Limpopo Province. There are nine communities who have received the farms through restitution in Elias Motsoaledi with over 200 beneficiaries. The communities are Kwa-Maqhuze Trust, Kwa-Sibange Trust, Kwa-Noqoli CPA, Ba-bina noko CPA, Bakwena ba Mohlabetse, Kwa-Huba CPA, Kwa-Qhaba CPA, Magaga-Matala CPA and Kgono CPA. The study aimed to find out the benefits realized by the beneficiaries of the restitution program in Ba bina Noko CPA, Kwa Noqoli CPA and Bakwena ba Mohlabetse. The study also attempted to identify potentials and risks that affect the viability of these farms and to identify the challenges faced by the beneficiaries. The qualitative research method was used.

The benefits realized by the beneficiaries were explored. A sample of 60 beneficiaries was selected using simple random sampling. The sixty beneficiaries from Ba bina Noko CPA, Kwa Noqoli CPA and Bakwena ba Mohlabetse were interviewed. The open and closed questions were asked and field notes were taken for each interview. Content analysis has been used to analyze the data.

The study revealed that the participation of women and youth at the restitution farms is not satisfactory. Only 6% of the participants benefit from the farms through employment. High unemployment and food insecurity are the major problems of the beneficiaries. About 70% to 80% of the beneficiaries are unemployed and 16% of participants are self-employed mostly on informal basis. A poor support system from the government institution was identified as a major cause of failure of the restitution program. The study recommended that the development funds, capacity building, business plans and stakeholder engagement be in place before the farms were restored to the

beneficiaries. The study concluded that most of beneficiaries were not realizing any tangible and significant benefits from the restitution farms.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANC	African National Congress
CPA	Communal Property Association
CRLR	Commission on Restitution of Land Rights
CASP	Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme
DLA	Department of Land Affairs
GSDM	Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality
ISRDP	Integrated Sustainable Rural Development
LCC	Land Claims Court
NAFU	National Farmers Union
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
PLAS	Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
RDF	Recapitalization and Development Fund
RDAP	Recapitalization and Development Programme
RLCC	Regional Land Claims Commission
SIS	Settlement and Implementation Support

CHAPTER ONE: ORIENTATION OF THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

The study aims to investigate the benefits that the restitution beneficiaries realize from the restored farms through the Restitution program. The focus of the study is in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality which is under Greater Sekhukhune District in Limpopo Province where nine communities have received their ancestral land.

1.2 Background

The passing of the various land based Acts, the Land Act of 1913 and 1936 and Group Areas Act of 1950 had consequences for the indigenous population. The Acts constrained access for Africans as owners of capital in the mining, manufacturing and agricultural sector and regulated their participation in the economy as laborers. The election of South Africa's first majority government raised expectations that an African National Congress-led government would affect a fundamental transformation of property rights that would address the history dispossession and lay the foundation for the social and economic upliftment of the rural and urban poor. The high hopes were strengthened by the reconstruction and development program which was committed to redistribute 30% of agricultural land to black people within five years (Thwala 2010 :3555).

Land reform performs an important symbolic function in the new South Africa as tangible evidence of a nation addressing historical injustice as part of a wider process of nation-building. It also has the potential to form the centerpiece of a programme of rural restructuring to transform social and economic relations and provide a structural basis for broad-based pro-poor development. About 70% of rural people in South Africa live below the poverty line, among them nearly, a million farm workers and their dependants, plus nearly a third of South Africa's population crowded into less than 13% of the land in the former homelands (May and Roberts in Hall, 2004:214).

The Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality (GSDM) comprised mainly of rural population of 967 185 persons with 94.7% of the population residing in the rural areas. The District has a relatively high illiteracy level, with almost 28% of the population having no formal school education whatsoever. Due to low levels of employment and large dependencies on few breadwinners, poverty is widespread. Global Insight Southern Africa estimated that 67.2% of the population lived in poverty in 2003. Sekhukhune has the highest unemployment rate in Limpopo at 69.4%, according to the expanded definition of unemployment (Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality Local Economic Development Strategy, 2007).

According to Thwala (2010:3559) land reform objective has a number of dimensions and these dimensions are:

- To address the gross inequality in land holding.
- It must provide sustainable livelihoods in ways that contribute to the development of dynamic rural economies.
- Attention must be given to the needs of marginalized groups especially women in order to overcome past and present discrimination.
- Implementation of land reform and sustainable development policies.

The Land Restitution programme was introduced as one of the Land Reform programs to address the land ownership imbalance in the Republic of South Africa as past racial discriminatory laws and practices. The program is guided by the Restitution of Land Rights Act 22 of 1994 as amended. The Restitution program was introduced with the aim to restore the land rights lost by most black people in South Africa in the Apartheid era. Most people were never compensated during the dispossession of their land and were forcefully removed (Restitution of Land Rights Act 22 of 1994 as amended).

Section 2 of the restitution of land rights act no. 22 of 1994 as amended stated that a person shall be entitled to a right if he or she is a person or part of community dispossessed of a right in land after 19 June 1913 as a result of past racial laws or practices or it is a deceased estate dispossessed of a right in land after 19 June 1913 as a result of past racially discriminatory laws. The restitution claims should be lodged not later than 31 December 1998.

The communities are usually advised by the Land Claims Commission to register legal entities whereby a committee is elected to represent the community and to ensure that the property of the community is well-managed. In Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality under Greater Sekhukhune District in Limpopo Province communities have registered Trusts and Communal Property Association (CPA).

Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality is one of the areas that have been affected by the land claims whereby nine communities have already been restored to their ancestral land. The nine communities which have acquired the land through restitution program are Kwa-Maqhuze Trust, Kwa-Sibange Trust, Kwa-Noqoli CPA; Babina-Noko CPA, Bakwena ba Mohlabetse CPA, Kwa-Huba CPA, Kwa-Qhaba CPA, Magaga-Matala CPA, and Kgono CPA. The farms transferred to the communities are mostly used for agricultural purposes.

Even though the restitution programme has good intentions of restoring the land rights lost and the dignity of black people, the management of the restored farms becomes complex, as a result it is difficult for the beneficiaries to get benefits from their land.

1.3 Rationale/Motivation

Government spends millions of rands on buying land for the restitution programme. Most of the farms are claimed by communities with a large number of beneficiaries. It becomes difficult for all the beneficiaries to realize the benefits from the restored land. The majority of farm workers are losing jobs when the farms are sold to government for

restoration purposes. Government is still trying to develop strategies that can ensure that all the beneficiaries benefit from the restored farms. Due to different factors such as lack of finance and skills most of the farms become less productive and it becomes difficult for the beneficiaries to benefit.

Little is known about the extent to which land reform is in fact promoting justice and reconciliation, or bringing about development and improved livelihoods for beneficiaries. The lack of reliable monitoring and evaluation means that implementers, policy makers, politicians, civil society organizations and the public at large result in little idea of the impact of the programme (Hall 2004:60).

In the National Restitution Workshop held on 6-8 May 2011 at Pretoria, it was indicated that the benefits of Restitution Programme is to allow the beneficiaries an opportunity to participate in the mainstream economy, to provide employment, and socio-economic upliftment of beneficiaries. The challenges which lead to poor production from restored farms were indicated as the failure to provide development grants, farming implements, and the other necessary infrastructure. Lack of settlement and development support after land has been restored to beneficiaries also lead to failure of restitution projects ([www.Ruraldevelopment.gov.za/DLA-internet/content/document-pages/Document library successful Land Reform Stories Restitution.jsp](http://www.Ruraldevelopment.gov.za/DLA-internet/content/document-pages/Document%20library%20successful%20Land%20Reform%20Stories%20Restitution.jsp), accessed 15/09/2011). All the issues discussed above are the main motivation for undertaking this study.

1.4 Significance

The large area of productive land is under the land claim in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality. Nine communities have received part of the claimed portions and there are still other portions that are to be restored to them in future. Due to a large number of beneficiaries per household, there is a need to assess how all the beneficiaries benefit from the restored farms. It is also important to assess the viability of the current restored farms and also look into the benefits it brings to the beneficiaries. The majority of the

restored farms are still operational therefore there is a need for an analysis to be conducted to identify the potential and risks that can affect the viability of these restitution projects. Areas that need to be improved can be identified and recommendations will be provided as the end results of the study.

1.5 Statement of the Problem

Sekhukhune District is one of the Municipalities with approximately 90% rural areas and high poverty rate. Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality is one of the Local Municipalities and has a population of 245,924 with 46,545 and 66.30% poverty rate (www.daff.gov.za/Greater Sekhukhune, accessed 12/01/2012).

In Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality nine communities have received the farms through restitution programme with over 1 000 beneficiaries who are supposed to benefit from the farms in the form of socio-economic improvement. Land ownership is not supposed to be measured in hectares only but also be measured on the impact it has on the lives of beneficiaries. The majority of the beneficiaries did not benefit from the restored farms; as a result, there is no improvement of livelihood from the farms. This study, therefore, attempts to investigate as to why beneficiaries did not benefit from the restored farms as expected.

1.6 Aim of the Study

Van der Elst (2007: 290) indicated that within the context of land reform, sustainable development entails that in order to be successful beneficiaries' quality of life must improve substantially, and acquired land must be utilized to its full commercial potential, after resettlement on claimed land has occurred.

According to Akinboade (2008:859) the lack of access to land is one of the key contributors to poverty with many of the world's - poor being landless. This relationship

elevates land to a position of being one of the most important resources in the Southern Africa region. Akinboade add that land affect a household's livelihood in terms of food source, its economic performance in terms of generating marketable surplus from its agricultural produce as well as the household's social and economic status.

The aim of this study is therefore to investigate the benefits realized by the beneficiaries of the Restitution Programme from the restituted farms in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality under Sekhukhune District of Limpopo Province.

1.7 Objectives

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- 1) To investigate the possible benefits that the restitution beneficiaries can receive from the restored farms.
- 2) To investigate reasons as to why the beneficiaries of restitution programme did not benefit from the restored farms.
- 3) To assess the potential and risks that can affect the viability of the restitution projects.
- 4) To identify the challenges faced by the claimants after the farms have been restored and
- 5) To recommend the strategies that can maximize the benefits of beneficiaries on the restored farms.

1.8. Research Questions

The aim of the study is to answer the following research questions:

What are the benefits that can be realized by the beneficiaries of the restitution programme on their restored farms to improve the status of their livelihood?

What are potentials and risks that can affect the viability of the restitution projects?

What are the challenges faced by the claimants after the farms have been restored?

1.9 Definition of Key concepts

Land Reform refers to a programme which is established to address effectively the injustice of forced removals and the historical denial of access to land (RDP, 1994:20) in Mashala (2006:14).

Restitution programme refers to a programme of land reform guided by the Restitution of Land Rights Act with the aim to restore the land rights lost as a result of past racially discriminatory laws or practices after 19 June 1913 (Restitution of Land Rights Act No. 22 of 1994)

Redistribution programme refers to a land reform programme which aim to redistribute land to the landless poor, tenants, farm workers and emerging farmers for residential and productive use (Thwala 2010:3556)

Land Tenure reform refers to a land reform programme which aims to protect and strengthen the rights of residents of privately owned farms and state land, together with the reform of system of communal tenure prevailing in the former homelands (Thwala 2010:3558). According to Adams et al (1999:2) land tenure reform is defined as the terms and conditions on which land is held, used and transacted

Land Claim refers to any claim for restitution of a right in land lodged with the Commission in terms of the Restitution Act (Restitution of Land Rights ACT, no.22 of 1994 as amended).

Claimants refers to any person who lodged a land claim in terms of the Restitution Act (Restitution of Land Rights ACT, no.22 of 1994 as amended)

Beneficiary refers to any person who have been restored of land rights in terms of Restitution Act (www.ruraldevelopment.gov.za/DLA-internet/content/document-pages/Document library successful Land Reform Stories Restitution.jsp)

1.10 Ethical consideration

The researcher arranged a meeting with the CPA (Communal Property Association) committees of Ba bina Noko, Bakwena ba Mohlabetse and Kwa Noqoli CPA to request permission prior to the interviews with beneficiaries. During interviews there were no promises for incentives after participating. Participants were informed that they are not forced to participate in the research if they feel uncomfortable. It was agreed that the names of participants will not be used. The purpose and outcomes of the research were clearly explained to participants.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Land reform

White paper on South African Land Policy (DLA, 1997:6) indicated that land ownership and land development patterns strongly reflected the political and economic conditions of the apartheid era. Racially-based land policies were a cause of inefficient land administration and land use. Land policy must deal with the following in both urban and rural environment:

- The injustice of racially-based land dispossession;
- The inequitable contribution of land ownership;
- The need for security of tenure for all;
- The need for sustainable use of land;
- The need for rapid release of land for development;
- The need to record and register all rights in property; and
- The need to administer public land in an effective manner.

Government's land reform policy is in four-folds as per the white paper of South African Policy (DLA, 1997: 7) which are:

- To redress the injustice of apartheid,
- To foster national reconciliation and stability,
- To underpin economic growth, and
- To improve household welfare and alleviate poverty.

In order to implement and achieve the objectives of effective land reform, the Department of Land Affairs embarked on three main functional processes, namely land restitution, land redistribution and tenure reform. Through these processes individuals and communities can claim or reclaim land that was lost as a result of events and legislation related to the institutionalization of apartheid (Van der Elst, 2007:288).

According to the green paper on land reform, 2011 the principles which underpin land reform are three-fold:

- deracialising the rural economy
- democratic and equitable land allocation and use across race, gender and class
- sustained production discipline for food security.

According to white paper on South African Land Policy (DLA,1997:36) land reform is not only a means of correcting past injustices and bringing reconciliation and peace to the country. Other economic benefits for society generated by land reform are:

- **Major cost savings resulting from a more rationale use of urban land:** Low density development makes inefficient use of investments in infrastructure and amenities and reduces accessibility to social and economic opportunities. It imposes high costs and time wastage on society in terms of journeys to work and amenities. Efficient and speedy release of suitably located land at the required rate and scale is a prerequisite for achieving the aims of the overall urban development strategy.
- **More households will be able to access sufficient food on a consistent basis:** The absence of household level food security has devastating consequences, most notably on the physical and mental development of children. Access to productive

land will provide the opportunity for putting more food on the table and providing cash for the purchase of food items.

- **Opportunities for small scale production:** Comparative international research notes that smaller sized agricultural units are often farmed more intensively, and are more labour absorbing. There are over a hundred thousand small scale and subsistence farmers in South Africa who could be assisted by the land redistribution programme to expand their land resource base through purchase or lease. The land reform thus offers the potential for more intensive irrigated farming, for contract farming in important sector of the agricultural economy such as cotton, timber and sugar, the potential to intensify agricultural production in areas of high agricultural potential.
- **Land reform can make a major contribution towards addressing unemployment, particularly in rural areas and small towns:** In rural areas the rate of unemployment ranges from 40% among poor households to 58% among the poorest.
- **Land reform will support business and entrepreneurial culture:** Property rights are critical for gaining access to capital for investment in entrepreneurial activity- either through selling the asset or through getting finance on the strength of it. In developed economies, 70% of the credit which new businesses raise is secured using formal titles as collateral for mortgages. The African population has been deprived of this economic opportunity, which stifled property and business related opportunities.
- **Land reform can have important favorable environment impacts in both urban and rural area:** Tenure security is a precondition for people to invest in land improvement and encourages environmentally sustainable land use practices.

Ntsebeza and Hall (2007:87) indicated that land reform programmes seek to restructure the agricultural sector and by transferring access and ownership of land from whites to

Africans , to redress the injustice of colonial and apartheid dispossession as well as to transform social and economic relations in the country side.

De Villiers (2003:49-52) in Van der Elst (2007: 288) summarized the land reform programs as follows:

Restitution: Through the validation of land claims this process revolves around the restoration of land rights and the return of land to people who were dispossessed of their land through legislation linked to the achievement of apartheid objectives since 1913.

Redistribution: This process aims to ensure that ownership of land is made possible to people who were denied that right during the apartheid years.

Tenure reform: Reform to the amendment of terms and conditions through which people own, utilize, occupy and gain access to land.

Tenure reform is the most neglected area of land reform to date; although it has potential to impact on more people than all the other land reform programmes combined especially the landless. Tenure reform has been addressed through the implementation of the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Act 3 of 1996, the Communal Property Association Act 28 of 1996, the Extension of Security Tenure Act 62 of 1997, the Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Act 31 of 1996, and the Transformation of Certain Rural Act 94 of 1998. These acts have failed to address the inequalities of access and confusion and chaos that surround land rights and administration in communal areas of the former homelands and the long term security of tenure for people who reside on privately owned farms Thwala (2010: 3558).

The purpose of the redistribution programme is to redistribute land to the landless poor, labour tenants, farm workers and emerging farmers for residential and productive use to

improve their livelihoods and quality of life (Department of Land Affairs, white paper policy 1997:36)

Mashala (2006:14) indicated that in RDP (1994:20) land reform is explained as the central and driving force of rural development. Land reform aims to address effectively the injustices of forced removals and the historical denial of access to land. It aims to secure security of tenure for rural dwellers. In implementing the national land reform programme and through the economy by generating large – scale employment, it also aims to increase rural incomes and eliminate overcrowding.

According to Groenewald (2003:2) traditionally land reform had two main objectives which are equity and productivity. The equity objective is closely associated with political egalitarian issues and has often been regarded important enough for authorities to ignore productivity and efficiency. Deininger (1999:653) argues that instead of aiming to increase productivity and reduce poverty, the main goal of many land reforms in the past has been to calm social unrest and allay political pressures by peasant organizations. Such reforms had often been initiated in response to political pressure rather than as part of the long-term rural development strategy.

2.2 The Restitution of Land Rights Act of 1994 (Act 22 of 1994)

The aim of this act is to provide for the restitution of rights in land to persons or communities dispossessed of such rights after 19 June 1913 as a result of past racially discriminatory laws or practices, to establish a Commission on Restitution of Land Rights (CRLR) and a Land Claims Court (LCC), and to provide for matters connected therewith (Restitution of land rights Act 22 f 1994).

The purpose of restitution is to restore original land ownership in such a way as to support reconciliation, reconstruction and development. Ensuring historical justice

healing wounds of apartheid through rights-based approaches is also important, because it addresses poverty through the development aspects of restitution (Lahiff in Thwala 2010: 3557).

According to white paper On South African Land Policy of 1997 Restitution can take the form of:

- restoration of the land from which claimants were dispossessed;
- provision of alternative land;
- payment of compensation;
- alternative relief comprising a combination of the above, or
- priority access to government housing and land development programmes.

The Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No. 22 of 1994 as amended) says the following is section 42C:

- 1) The Minister may from money appropriated by parliament for this purpose and on such conditions as he or she may determine, grant an advance or a subsidy for the development or management of, or to facilitate the settlement of persons on land which is subject of an order of the Court in terms of this Act or an agreement in terms of section 14(3) or 42D,
 - a) any claimant to whom restoration or the reward of right in land has been ordered;
 - b) any claimant who has entered into an agreement contemplated in section 14 (3) or 42D;
 - c) any person resettled as a result of an order of the Court.

2) For the purpose of subsection (1) development of land includes the facilitation of the planning of any development of land.

Van der Elst (2007:291) mentioned the phases of restitution programme as follows:

Phase 1: Pre-expropriation phase

Phase 2: Screening and categorization

Phase 3: Validation investigation

Phase 4: Verification investigation

Phase 5: The return of land to beneficiaries

Phase 6: The facilitation of post –settlement support

According to Silungwe (2009:36) the land restitution model has been championed in South Africa and it is entrenched under the Constitution of South Africa with the purpose to address land dispossession that occurred during apartheid under the racially discriminatory Native Land Act 1913. It is further indicated that the model is regulated through ‘an expedited’ extra-judicial method where claimants negotiate with Commission on Restitution of Land Rights and remedies include, restoration of land, provision of alternative land, payment of compensation, alternative relief, priority access to housing, and land development programmes. The restitution model has suffered from institutional fragmentation, unnecessary litigation and a lack of leadership (Silungwe 2009: 36).

According to the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) 2009/2010 annual report the Commission managed to settle a total of 33 of the targeted

1 695 claims during the 2009/2010 financial year, affecting 9 294 households. It translates into a cumulative settlement of over 75 844 restitution claims since commencement of the restitution process in 1995. Approximately 324 712 households have benefited from the restitution programme during the past twelve years. Cumulatively, the number of hectares of land approved for restoration to beneficiaries represents 10% of the state's target for transferring agricultural land to black farmers by 2014. The slow pace of settling outstanding claims is a result of severe budgetary constraints that were experienced by the Commission.

Mr. M. Shabane Director –General for the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform indicated in the annual report for 2010/2011 that Commission on Restitution of Land Rights settled a total of 475 claims between April 2010 and March 2011 benefiting 13,310 house holds. Consequently a total of 124,507.2600 hectares was restored and the cost of land paid thus far translates into over R 800 million. The financial compensation paid to beneficiaries was over R 460 million.

Table 1: Summary of performance of Restitution

Strategic objective	Output	Performance	Actual performance	
			Target	Actual achievement
Settlement of all outstanding claims by 2011	All lodged claims settled	All the remaining 4 560 land claims validated, gazette, verified and settlement by 2011 in terms of the	1 695	Target not achieved 33 land claims settled and finalized The programme experienced huge budget deficit during

		Restitution of Land Rights Act		the year under review, as a result most of the claims that were in the pipeline could not be settled.
	Contribution of claimed/alternative land to the department target to redistribute 30% white owned agriculture land by 2014	Total number of hectares of land claimed restored which contributes to 30% departmental target 15 137 12ha	556 234ha	Target not achieved 145 492 ha were restored.
	Settlement support process of land claims with development aspect facilitated to ensure sustainable development	Effective implementation of all settled projects	Action plan in place for roll-out of post settlement framework	Target partially achieved The action plan has been partly implemented.

Source: 2009/10 annual report Department of Rural Development and Land Reform

According to Akinboade (2008:860) many larger and more complex rural claims are outstanding and the redistribution to new owners has been much slower with the Eastern Cape having larger numbers of settled claims followed by the Western Cape, Kwazulu-Natal and Gauteng. Limpopo Province accounts to 3, 8 per cent and also to 20 per cent of total outstanding claims yet to be settled. Akinboade (2008: 861) further indicated the total number of households that benefited from the programme varied

whereby the Eastern Cape leads with 42,187 households, followed by Kwazulu-Natal with 39,702 but the next largest cohorts of beneficiaries are found in Mpumalanga with 29,366 and Limpopo with 27,480.

2.3 Challenges of land reform

Many observers generally associate land reform with failure, both from the point of view of its pace and sustainability without examining the root causes of the problem. The land reform programme's reliance on the market, as a mechanism to redistribute land resulted not only in the process being slow and expensive, but has also meant that there were hardly any resources left for proper support services to land reform beneficiaries. While there is no known research conducted on the impact of failed land reform projects food security, farm jobs, and the fact that most of the six million hectares of agricultural land acquired through land reform programme, now out of production (Policy framework for the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform p3 accessed from www.DLA.gov.za on 25th April 2012).

In the final report of the Agri-Africa consultants for Western Cape Department of Agriculture (2005), it has been indicated that agricultural land reform is one of South Africa's most important and difficult initiatives. The report further indicated that land reform focuses on the past (restitution) and the future (redistribution and tenure reform), as well as on promoting social and economic equity together with productivity and a strong economy and society. It is further indicated that land reform projects have not succeeded in developing an economic performance that matches expectations, nor necessarily resulted in poverty alleviation.

Deininger (1999:653) discusses the challenges of land reform in three forms, which are:

First, the transfer from large to small farmers requires a change in the pattern of production, construction of complimentary infrastructure, subdivision of the farm and settlement of additional beneficiaries. Farms acquired for purpose of land reform have generally not been utilized at full capacity. Failure of beneficiaries to provide resources for simple works such as cleaning of pastures, fencing, and other responsibilities during the startup phase and also unavailability of productive assets and technical support to go with land have often contributed to the failure of land reform efforts.

Second, land reform beneficiaries, even if they were workers of the former farm, are rarely accustomed to making independent entrepreneurial decisions, a constraint that is particularly important if realization of the potential benefits from land reform requires significant modifications in the farm's cropping pattern. Programmes limited to the transfer of land without training and technical assistance have made it difficult for the beneficiaries to reach an equilibrium characterized by high levels of productivity and savings.

Third, in rural environments with multiple market imperfections, providing beneficiaries with access to land but not with access to markets for output and credit may fail to make them better off than before.

Groenewald (2003: 1) indicated that successful land reform has certainly been one of the largest challenges in agricultural development practically all over the Third World in Africa, Asia, Central and Southern America and Eastern Europe, agriculture was plagued with problems such as uneven access to land resources, severe rural poverty, unproductive use of land and social, economic and political inequality. Groenewald (2003:2) indicated that for land reform to be successful, land as a resource must be rendered in a manner that it achieves the following:

- Land must be able to foster agricultural production on a sustainable basis; besides delivering products over the short-term run, land must be preserved and conserved in perpetuity.
- The need to provide for increasing returns over time automatically implies the ability to attract capital, both owned and borrowed. The person farming the land must have secured tenure and also be able to reap the benefits of investments made, and technology introduced.
- The land must be able to provide an attractive living place for those who utilize it – acceptable and attractive living styles must be possible.
- Land, its tenure and its use must be such that it attracts high caliber people to its ranks. In farming, as in any other occupation, it is management and entrepreneurship that determines success, the failure of systems involving the indiscriminate parceling of land in small units and indiscriminate distribution of these units to provide for production.

The success in land reform does not only depend on the abovementioned conditions but ultimately depends on execution, and delivery of land reform policy. It is in the inability or unwillingness to deliver that causes many policy programmes to flounder and fail and this is no different in land reform policy. (Groenewald: 2003:3).

According to Turner (1997) in Critchley, Versfeld and Mollel (1998:54) the land transfer has been the priority although the economic question about the livelihoods of land reform beneficiaries, viability of projects and environmental question did not receive enough attention.

Turner indicated that much of the analysis and calculation that went into the design of the South African land reform programme assumed that the land to be acquired under redistribution component would be put into production mainly for agricultural purpose. No such assumptions could be made about land rights restored under restitution. If the

Land Claims Court decides that a claim for restoration of rights is valid, what the rightful owners decide to do with newly restored land is up to them. Some land reform planners are reluctant to make any planning inputs or environmental assessment in restitution cases (Turner in Critchley, Versfeld and Mollel 1998:55).

It has further been indicated that in most cases land reform means establishing or expanding settlements and providing them with basic services and the question should to be asked about the environmental impacts of the development and whether they need to be adjusted or catered for (Turner in Critchley, Versfeld and Mollel 1998: 59l).

The final report developed by Agri-Africa Consultants for Western Cape Department of Agriculture in November 2005 identified some of the findings on the challenges faced by the land reform beneficiaries in the Western Cape as:

- Operational constraints: Cash to operate the business and capital for development make up to 45% of the perceived constraint.
- The limitation in human capacity mainly being technical, managerial and administrative skills is also a challenge.
- The most powerful retardant is government inefficiencies, mainly the lack of service delivery.
- Lesser constraints include problems of co-operation within groups and difficulties with commercial strategic partners.

Zinnermann in Zwane (2010:3) identified barriers to participation in the land redistribution programme as lack of ample free household labour, time, considerable farming skills, willing to bear the risks of farming in areas unknown to them. According to Ruhiiga (2011: 33) financing of redistribution and restitution programme has been generally inadequate and made worse by red tape and legislative confusion.

According to Lahiff in Thwala (2010:3557) a number of case studies reveal major problems in terms of inadequate infrastructural development, poor service provision and unrealistic business planning. Lahiff further indicates that the impact of this programme is constrained by poor integration with other programmes of national, provincial and local government.

According to Turner in Thwala (2010:3554) the current structures of land administration and tenure are grossly inefficient from an economic point of view. Thwala indicated that land reform in South Africa is unsustainable and is a recipe for instability therefore there is a need for land reform programmes to be redefined as core elements of sustainable development in government strategy through adoption of clearer approaches that promote sustainable livelihoods in a popular fusion.

Ntsebeza and Hall (2010:100) identified the alignment between Department of Land Affairs and Department of Agriculture as a problem which results in failure to provide adequate support to enable beneficiaries to derive substantial benefits. According to Ntsebeza and Hall the separation of the two departments and their policy and operational framework has resulted in a failure to budget for post transfer support at a provincial level. According to Hall (2004:58) there is a chronic lack of support for beneficiaries after transfer of land which is widely acknowledged.

The green paper on land reform (2011:7) outlines the problems and weaknesses of land reform as follows:

- Land acquisition strategy (a distorted land market),
- fragmented beneficiary support,
- beneficiary selection for land redistribution,

- land administration / governance, especially in communal areas,
- meeting the 30% redistribution target by 2014,
- declining agricultural contribution to the GDP,
- unrelenting increase in rural unemployment and,
- a problematic restitution model and its support system (communal property institutions and management).

Thwala (2010:3558) indicated that the major challenge for restitution programme remains the settlement of rural claims in a way that contributes to the larger goals of land reform, redressing the racial inequalities in land holding, while reducing poverty and enhancing livelihood opportunities.

2.4 Post settlement support in Land Reform

According to the Policy framework for the Recapitalization and Development Programme (RADP) of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform p5 (accessed at www.DLA.gov.za on 25th April 2012) the Recapitalization and Development Fund (RDF) has been created from the Department's land reform budget (25%) over each MTEF period. The fund replaces the following land reform grants:

- (a) The 25% PLAS(Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy) operational Budget
- (b) The 25% Household Development Grant;
- (c) The 25% Restitution Development Grant;
- (d) The Restitution Settlement Grant; and
- (e) Commonage infrastructure grant.

The specific objectives of RADP are:

- to increase production;
- to guarantee food security;
- to graduate small farmers into commercial farmers;
- to create employment opportunities within the agricultural sector; and
- To establish rural development rangers.

According to Molefe (2004:21) in Van der Elst (2007:292) post-settlement support refers specifically to the government's function and responsibility in assisting beneficiaries of the land reform programme after they have received land. In this post settlement phase beneficiaries must be empowered to utilize land in a way that reduces poverty and gives them sustainable livelihood. In many cases there is a need for assistance in terms of financial support, agricultural training programmes, mentorship programmes and environmental support structures (Bosman 2005:19) in Van der Elst (2007:292). It is further indicated that due to the absence of effective management for post settlement support, the South African land reform programme has been unsuccessful in terms of sustainable development and improving the life of beneficiaries especially in rural areas (Van der Elst 2007: 287). The green paper on land reform (2011:15) indicates that the main constraint of land reform is the poor capacity of organs of State to implement.

Hall (2004:58) indicated that official surveys and independent research both showed that land reform had produced limited tangible benefit for participants in terms of improved livelihoods and incomes largely as a result of a lack of post-settlement support. The problem is also identified during the pre-transfer phase where

inappropriate business plans are developed emphasizing capital-intensive investment rather than cheaper alternatives or basic infrastructure like fencing and boreholes.

Tshuma (2012:1074) indicated that in spite of a slow pace, there are some people that have benefited from Land Reform however; the lack of post-settlement support has made such beneficiaries to struggle to produce enough to feed themselves. Productivity has gone down on the resettled farms compared to the pre-land redistribution days. The necessary structures such as Land Bank are in place in some places but the level of assistance given has not been enough. The government does provide extension services through its extension officers but the number of people they have to serve is far more than they can handle. Therefore, even though the government's efforts are clear, more still needs to be done in order to make these interventions play an even bigger role in alleviating poverty in the country.

Ntsebeza and Hall (2007:88) indicated that the institutional coordination among the state agencies is a necessary condition for improved impact on livelihoods of beneficiaries however it is not sufficient. The state support for investment in production is lacking. It is further indicated that where poor communities have lacked capital to enable them to continue with existing operations on commercial farms, they sometimes enter into joint ventures with commercial partners able to provide finance and expertise or even lease out their land to the previous owner. These arrangements emerge where resource poor people become owners of commercial farms in the absence of an agricultural support regime. It is questioned whether the restoration of land rights is adequate or durable in the absence of a wider process to restore livelihoods. Walker in (Ntsebenza 2010:94) argues that restitution addresses rights but these may prove superficial if they cannot be used as a basis for development.

According to Machethe and Mollel in Xhotyeni (2001: 22) white commercial farmers have traditionally been served by a relatively few, but well-qualified staff while black small holder farmers are served by a large number of less qualified staff. They further indicated that there is insufficient support provided to black emerging farmers in post

settlement period due to multiple functions that extension agents perform. Tuta (2008:14) indicated that lack of post-settlement support has often been identified as a problem area both in the land restitution and land redistribution programmes. Lack of sufficient support by both the private sector and state institutions has resulted in black emerging farmers failing in their newly acquired farms even before they emerge as farmers (Tuta 2008:14)

Van der Elst (2007:290) has indicated that there is a relationship between land redistribution and post settlement support as part of land reform and government has an obligation to empower the beneficiaries of land redistribution. According to Van der Elst (2007:290) empowerment would be to establish an effective support foundation to ensure that sustainable development takes place, specifically in rural areas. Sustainable development entails that in order to be successful beneficiaries' quality of life must improve substantially, and acquired land must be utilized to its full commercial potential.

Hall and Ntsebeza (2007: 102) indicated that the World Bank rule of thumb is that land should constitute only a third of the total cost of market-led land reform, with two thirds of the funds being dedicated to post-transfer support and operating costs. In the budget speech 2011/2012 the MEC for Limpopo Department of Agriculture indicated that during the year a total of eight projects have received funding for infrastructure development and farm machinery funded through the equitable share. It is further indicated that the intervention is being scaled up for other high value restitution projects which are currently under-utilized mainly as a result of poor leadership, financial mismanagement and community conflicts (www.limpopo.departmentofagriculture/budgetspeech.gov.za, accessed 28/09/2011).

In the presentation of the Department of Land Affairs annual report to the Select Committee on Land and Environmental Affairs on the 27th of October 2009 Mr. Thozi Gwanya indicated that the agreement has been entered into with Agri-SETA to ensure that beneficiaries receive the necessary training to enable them to make optimal use of

the land restored to them. Mr. Gwanya also indicated that a review on all projects where land has been transferred to beneficiaries has been concluded and 200 struggling projects have been identified for assistance and support. 2008/09 annual report of the Department of Land Affairs indicated that R 20 million had been committed to the training of beneficiaries to allow them to make optimal use of land transferred to them.

Hall (2004:19) explained that DLA and CRLR have reached agreements with Agri-SA in some provinces to ensure that commercial farmers provide mentorship support to land claimants moving back onto their land. Where poor communities lack resources to use their restored land productively one response has been to opt for “inverse” rentals in which claimants lease their newly regained land back to white commercial farmers, sometimes the former owner. Although this may benefit the community financially, and remove some of the risks of farming rental income has to be divided among large communities which bring limited benefit to individual members.

The launch of Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) in August 2004 marked the first dedicated funds made available by the National Department of Agriculture to support land reform. A total of R 750 million has been earmarked for the CASP, spread over a three-year period in increasing tranches. CASP is to fund training, technical advice, marketing and business development, infrastructure, production inputs and financial assistance. At a provincial level, a portion of the CASP funds has been set aside for land reform beneficiaries between R 10 million and R 20 million per province to be split between restitution and land reform projects (Hall 2004:58)

The policy framework for recapitalization and development programme of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform final version (assessed www.DLA.gov.za p3 on 25/04/12) indicates that efforts were made to develop post-settlement strategies such as Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) and the Settlement and Implementation Support (SIS) programme, and there was insufficient capacity within government for full scale implementation of these

programmes. The policy further indicates that the 2007 review of the CASP revealed that not all six pillars of CASP were implemented, and that there was a misalignment between the CASP and the land reform programmes.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Babbie and Mouton (2001:104) in Mashala (2006:41) explains research as the methods, techniques and procedures that are employed in the process of implementing a research design or research plan. At present there are two well-known and recognized approaches to research which are qualitative and quantitative paradigms (De vos, Strydom, Fouche and Delport (2005:73). The difference between the two methods is that the qualitative approach aims to construct detailed description of social reality and quantitative approach aims to test predictive and cause effect hypotheses about social reality (De vos, Strydom, Fouche and Delport (2005:75). This study uses the qualitative research method because the focus of the study was based on the reality that the restitution beneficiaries experience. As indicated by De vos (2001:75) the participants language was used in qualitative method to understand their real world.

Babbie (2007:92) indicated that there are three most common and useful purposes of social research which are exploration, description, and explanation. He also indicated that the exploratory studies are mostly done to satisfy the researcher's curiosity and desire for better understanding, to test the feasibility of undertaking a more extensive study and to develop the methods to be employed in a subsequent study.

3.1. Research Design and Rationale

Mouton (2001:55) indicated that a research design is a plan or blueprint of how one intends to conduct research and it focuses on the end product which formulates a research problem as a point of departure and focuses on the logic of research. Whereas Bless and Higson-Smith in Mashala (2006:46) describes research design as a programme to guide the research in collecting, analyzing and interpreting observed facts.

Creswell (2009: 4) explains the three different types of research designs as follows:

Qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. The process of research involves emerging questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participant's setting, data analysis inductively building from particulars to general themes, and the researcher making interpretations of the meaning of the data. The final written report has a flexible structure. Those who engage in this form of inquiry support have a way of looking at research that honors an inductive style, a focus on individual meaning, and the importance of rendering the complexity of a situation.

Quantitative research is a means for testing objective theories by examining the relationship among variables. These variables in turn can be measured typically on instruments so that numbered data can be analyzed using statistical procedures.

Creswell in De vos et al (2005:268) defines design in the qualitative context as "the entire process of research from conceptualizing a problem to writing the narrative".

In this study the researcher used qualitative research design whereby the benefits that the restitution beneficiaries get from the restored farms were explored. The employment opportunities, food security, educational aids, access to shelter, skills development, profit sharing, and empowerment in decision-making was used to measure benefits. The researcher attempted to develop beneficial strategies for the restitution beneficiaries.

3.2 Population

Population is described by Babbie (2007:116) as the group (usually of people) that we want to draw conclusion on. Roco in Mouton (1996:134) explains a population as a

collection of objects, events or individuals having some common characteristics that the researcher is interested in studying.

The population in this study was the beneficiaries of Land Restitution Programme in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Greater Sekhukhune District in Limpopo Province. The total number of Restitution Projects in the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality is nine with over 200 beneficiaries per project. Approximately 324 712 households have benefited from the restitution programme during the past 12 years in all nine provinces (2009/10 annual report from Department of Rural Development and Land Reform www.ruraldevelopmentandlandreform.gov.za). The beneficiaries of the restitution projects in Elias Motsoaledi Municipality are mostly residing in areas of former Kwandebele, Witbank, Moutse West, Tafelkop, Burgersfort and Stofburg area.

3.3 Sample

A sample is defined as a small portion of the total set of objects, events or persons that together comprise the subject of the study. (A S de Vos et.al: 2002: 199). Kerlinger (1986) in De vos, Strydom, Fouche,Delpont (2005:193) define sampling as representative of the population. De vos, Strydom, Fouche,Delpont (2005:193) indicated that sample could only generalize the findings of a study when it is assumed that what was observed in the sample of the subject would also be observed in any other group of the subjects from the population

Babbie and Mouton (2001:166) indicated that there are two types of sampling methods which are probability sampling and non-probability sampling. Kirk and Seaberg in Devos, Strydom, Fouche and Delpont (2005:198) describe probability sample as a method through which each person in the population has the same known probability of being selected. In this study all the beneficiaries will be given an equal chance of being selected.

The researcher used probability sampling whereby nine restitution projects were clustered and three projects sampled using simple random system. Sixty beneficiaries were selected from the three projects using simple random sampling whereby each of three projects was represented by twenty beneficiaries. The three projects selected are Ba bina Noko CPA, Kwa Noqholi CPA, and Ba kwena Ba Mohlabetse CPA.

3.4. Data Collection

Creswell (2009: 181) indicated that data collection procedure in qualitative research involve four basic types which include observation, interviews, documents and audio-visual materials.

De vos, Strydom, Fouche and Delport explained that the semi-structured interviews are used to gain a detailed picture of a participant's beliefs or perceptions or accounts of a particular topic (2005:302.). In this study, interviews were arranged and a questionnaire was developed to collect data. Open and closed questions were asked in the Sepedi the language that was understood by participants. The study interviewed participants on a one-on-one basis to ensure that the views of each participant are captured correctly. The notes were taken during the interview. The questions were more focused on aspects of socio economic development such as job opportunities, food security, educational aids, access to shelter, skills development, profit sharing and empowerment in decision-making. Data was collected within a period of eight weeks.

3.5. Data Analysis

Babbie (2007: 400) indicated that the key process in the analysis of qualitative social research data is coding, classifying or categorizing individual pieces of data. He also explained that coding is what can be done when engaged in in-depth interviews, doing

content analysis or some other form of qualitative research. Babbie et (2001:491) explain content analysis as a research method which examines words or phrases within a wide range of texts, including books, book chapters, essays, interviews and speeches as well as informal conversations and headlines. In this study content analysis and descriptive statistics were use as analytical tools to analyze the data.

3.6 Difficulties encountered

Not all beneficiaries were willing to participate in the study. It has been costly travelling to interview participants and the study was time-consuming. Some beneficiaries became suspicious that maybe their participation in the study could result in government taking farms from them.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The questions asked were divided into three compartments namely profile of participant, farm benefits and services from government institutions. The profile took into consideration, among other things the skills, employment status, training received. The farm benefits investigation considered the year the farm was restored, the expectations when claiming the farms and other issues related to productivity and profits of the farms. The support and services considered the satisfaction of participants in the service and support provided. The data is interpreted using percentages instead of numbers.

Forty percent of participants were women and sixty percent were males. Youth participation in the study was only twenty percent. Thirty percent of these youth reside in Mpumalanga Province while in the former Kwa-ndebele homelands are mostly the beneficiaries of Kwa-Noqoli CPA. The average house-hold number of participants is eight and with only two house-holds with people with one disabled person each. Seventy percent reside within the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality and mostly are beneficiaries of Bakwena ba mohlabetse CPA and Babina Noko CPA.

4.1 Employment status

As can be seen from Figure 1, Seventy percent of participants are unemployed and three percent pensioners. Six percent of participant is working on the restored farms as general workers and are males only. Sixteen percent of participants are self employed and their businesses involve managing shops, building houses and owning livestock. These self-employed participants said that they do not get income always and most of the times it is hard especially with the high cost of living that they are faced with. All participants indicated that they were hoping to alleviate poverty by creating jobs within the community and produce food for their families once the farms have been restored. Most participants indicated that the unemployment is the biggest challenge in their lives.

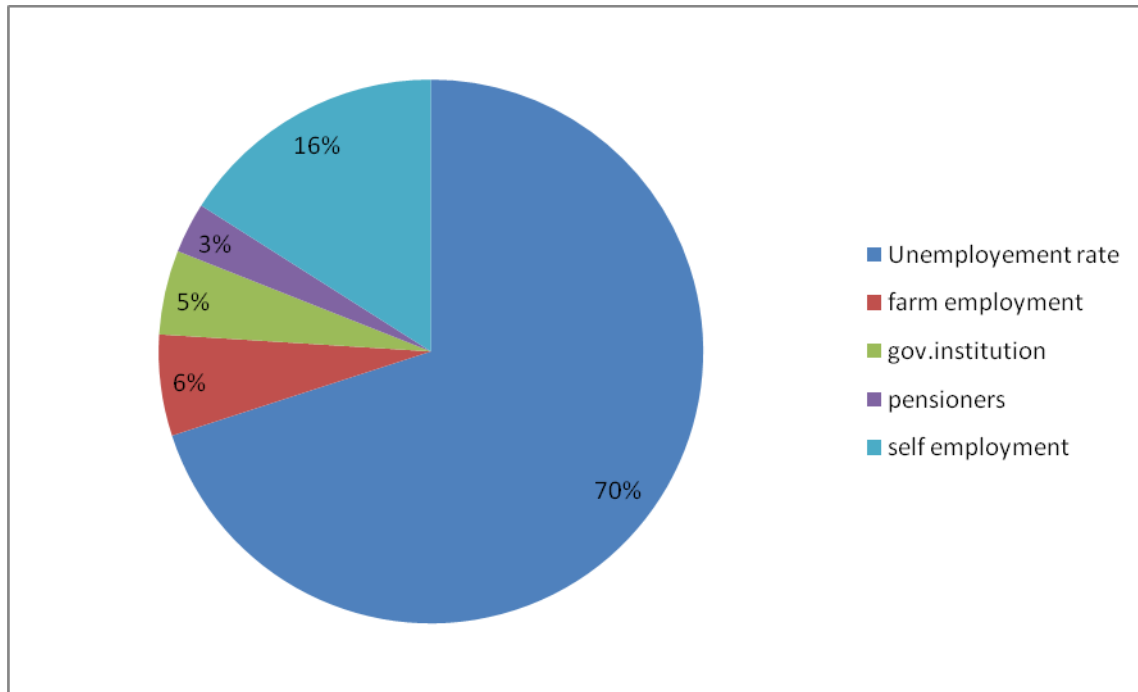


Figure.1 Employment profile of participants

4.2 Educational profile

As can be seen from Figure 2, Eighty percent of the participants did not complete matric whereby fifteen percentages did not complete standard five (grade 7) at primary schools. All participants can read and write. Only fifteen percent of participants have matric and five percent with post matric qualification in teaching. According to the Department of Social Development's study on the ISRDP (Integrated Sustainable Rural Development) and URP (Urban Renewal Programme) livelihood in Sekhukhune (2008:16) 46.4% of Sekhukhune population did not complete standard 5 and only 3.7% have post matric qualifications. The study established that there are no funding programmes to help the beneficiaries with financial aid or educational loans because the farms do not generate any profit.

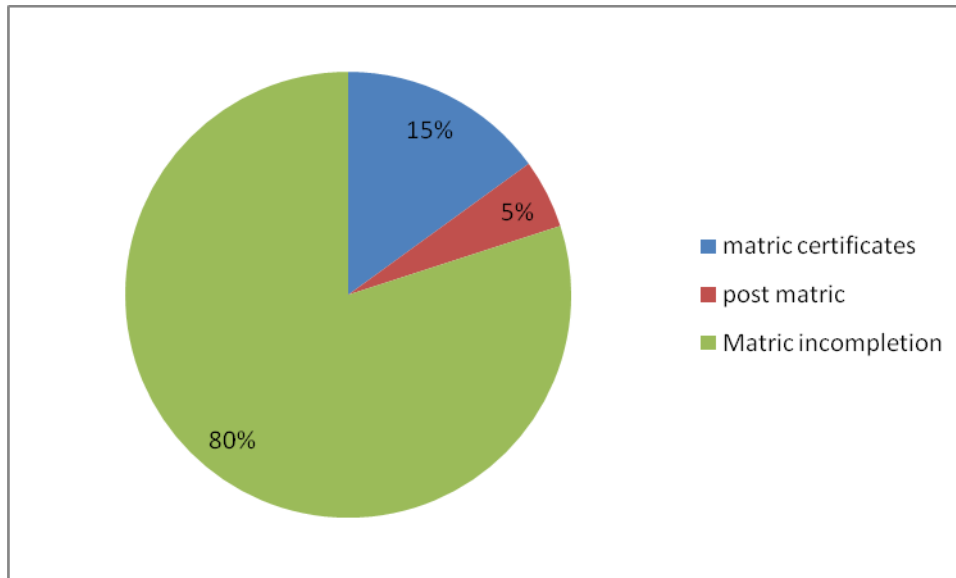


Figure 2 Educational profile of participants

4.3 Skills profile

Only ten percent of participants have been trained by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform on the responsibilities of CPA executive since the restoration of the farms. Those who have been trained through workshop on their responsibilities as executive said that they felt there was still more that needs to be done to capacitate them in order to manage their farms successfully. The skills that the participants have are mostly in driving, building, welding, motor mechanic and indigenous farming knowledge. There were no trainings provided to all other participants before and after the restoration of the farms.

Some participants indicated that the failure of government to capacitate them with skills to be able to manage the farms is a set up to fail. “ Mmusho o epa lebitla leo rena re tlilego go bolokwa mo go lona gobane ga re ye felo” this is a Sepedi quote saying government is digging a grave for us so that we can be buried because there is no

future for us. Participants believe that lack of skills is the beginning of their failure on restitution farms.

4.4 Poverty rate

Within the context of land reform, sustainable development entails that in order to be successful beneficiaries the quality of life must improve substantially, and acquired land must be utilized to its full commercial potential after resettlement on claimed land has occurred. (Van der Elst, 2007:290). According to all participants poverty is caused by unemployment and the unavailability of nutritious food. Poverty was explained as hunger. According to Drieme et al (2009:247) the decrease in agricultural knowledge, inappropriate extension services, and poor credit facilities result in high food insecurity in South Africa. During interviews it was established that over seventy percent of the beneficiaries are poor since they do not have income, they have shortage of nutritious food to feed their children at all times and they are staying in poor shelters where water gets in through the roof when it is raining.

Drimie et al (2009:247) indicated that despite a strong government commitment to addressing development issues in South Africa, tremendous disparities in food security exist between communities and households across the country, reflecting continuing social and economic inequalities. It is estimated that approximately 14 million people are food insecure and 1.5 million children suffer from malnutrition.

Driemie at al (2009: 249) further explains that food availability at house-hold level has been limited by largely inadequate production and inadequate farm inputs. The investigation revealed that the beneficiaries of restitution project in Elias Motsoaledi Municipality are experiencing the same challenges resulting in food insecurity. About ninety percent of participants indicated that they have hope that if their farms can be operational the creation of jobs and production of food can reduce poverty within the

community. About ten percent of participants believe that the needs of the people cannot be addressed through restoration of farms only because not everybody can get a job at the farm. If all beneficiaries can be employed at the farms profit will not be generated.

4.5 Participation of members

Thwala (2010:3559) indicated that land reform must also give attention to the needs of marginalized groups, especially women, in order to overcome past and present discrimination. Seventy percent of the respondents indicated that the participation of women and youth in the farm is unsatisfactory. Amongst other reasons given was that rural women are shy to speak in meetings and the youth does not like farming. According to culture, as explained by some participants, women are expected to stay at home to look after kids and house-hold duties they cannot be able to go to meetings as and when expected. The cost of transport has also been identified as a reason for all house-hold members not to come to meetings. Men are the ones leading the CPAs and often attending meetings. There are no activities at the farm where most members can participate since most portions are leased and other portions are not utilized.

About 30% of participants have indicated that due to frustrations the beneficiaries have started to be divided because they do not agree on how to manage the farms. Conflicts can be a serious threat to the sustainability of the farms. The poor advisory support from the Government offices are blamed for the conflict arising among beneficiaries.

4.6 Farm status

The farms were acquired by participants since 2008 till 2011, with a total extent from 245ha to 795ha. All participants indicated that they are still waiting for more portions to be restored with approximately 9 000ha. All participants believe that the farms they

have are too small for them to be able to benefit as communities. The farms are mostly used for the production of grapes, citrus and beef cattle.

The infrastructure has improved according to participants from a Kwa-Noqholi CPA since the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform installed a new irrigation on part of their farm. However, they feel that the irrigation system is not sufficient because there is a portion of their farm that is not operational and the community does not have production inputs and farm implements to use the installed system productively. The condition of the infrastructure has deteriorated in other restitution farms because of vandalization and theft. Almost twenty percent of the participants indicated that theft in the area is high and as a result their assets are vandalized and others are stolen.

4.7 Current farm activities versus pre-settlement farm activities

According to the final version of policy framework for Recapitalization and Development Programme of the Department of Rural Development and Land reform (assessed www.ruraldevelopment and [land reform.gov.za](http://landreform.gov.za) 20/04/12) six million hectares of agricultural land acquired through land reform programme is now out of production. The study revealed that the restored farms are not fully utilized where-by other portions are leased and other portions are lying unutilized. Failure to utilize the farms fully has resulted in the farms being vandalized. The beneficiaries are unable to utilize the farms due to lack of funds, skills and machinery to start working. One participant indicated that the infrastructure which was purchased with the farm will no longer be available by the time government starts to fund the project because it will have been stolen.

The farms were previously producing good quality grapes, oranges and grains for the international market. The farms were fully operational and machinery was available for

production. Currently there are no formal markets and market contracts; as a result the products are sold at streets and taxi ranks at a lower price.

4.8 Expectations of participants when lodging land claim

The ancestral land was described by participants as a resource and also a weapon to fight poverty. Many participants were hoping to use their ancestral land as a tool to participate in the economy of the country and to fight hunger.

Participants were hoping to create jobs from the farms and feed their families with food from the farms. Since farms were mostly agricultural enterprises beneficiaries were intending to continue with farming and even expand the field of operations. “Our expectations were great but now our dreams are just nightmares”, said one of the young participants. All participants have indicated that they still hope that if the government systems can change they may realize their dreams and start working on their land efficiently. Without resources the farms are just adding stress to them but they are not intending to give up their wealth.

4.9 Benefits realized from restitution farms

Only six percent of the participants have benefited from the farms through source of income while ninety four percent have indicated that there are no benefits from the farms. There is no profit from the farms even though there is a mentor and farm manager at Ba bina Noko and Kwa Noqoli farms. The main reason for this is that the farms are not used productively due to lack of resources.

Only sixty six percent of the participants believe that it is possible for all the beneficiaries in their communities to benefit from the restored farms. They indicated that the benefits can be realized if the funds can be made available for skills development,

infrastructure development and farm equipments. About twenty percent of participants believe that the restored farms are small and only if they can get additional land then it can be possible for them to benefit. These are participants who consider grazing land as benefit because their livestock are dying in the communal land where grass is limited. Close to thirteen percent of participants believe that it is not possible for all beneficiaries to benefit because they are many.

The study revealed that on all farms there is no profit realized. About R 63 000 was generated over three years by Kwa-noqoli CPA and this money was used for recovering the running costs.

4.10 Support and services from government institutions

All participants showed dissatisfactions and frustrations with regard to services from the government institutions. Participants have explained that the support system is very poor and they are not certain whether officials understand their work. They believe that the Minister should come to the farms to see the conditions in which they are operating under. All participants complained about the slow processes of releasing development funds from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. Most participants indicated that since the farms were restored they have been struggling to develop business plans and operational plans and now they are struggling to get funds to be available to them for utilization. Thwala (2010:3557) also shows concern over the inadequate infrastructural development, poor service provision and unrealistic business planning in restitution farms.

The study found out that there was lack of monitoring at the project. All participants have shown a great disappointment because after they have received farms no-one monitored and advised them on how to overcome their challenges. "Government is

playing with people's feelings by making empty promises to us". These are words from one of the participants who were very frustrated.

The results from the study revealed that the beneficiaries did not qualify to get loans to acquire working resources because they were not allowed to use the restored land as a security. However, according to the white paper on land policy (1997:36) land reform will support business and entrepreneurial culture in a sense that property rights can be used to access capital for investment in entrepreneurial activity by using formal titles as collateral for mortgages which the African population had not been privileged to acquire.

Over eighty percent of participants recommended that the government must stop restoring land to the people if they are not going to provide support. There is a need for funds to be made readily available as soon as the farms are restored.

4.11 Opportunities and strengths

- The study revealed that the soil is very fertile and the production of the farms was very high with the ability to supply the national and international markets.
- It is possible to expand the available production systems to increase production.
- Multiple production systems such as vines, citrus, livestock, game and tourism can be possible in all farms

4.12 Threats and weaknesses

- Unavailability of operational funds
- Poor support system from government institutions

- Lack of relevant skills
- Theft
- Conflicts
- Lack of youth interest in the activities
- Insufficient infrastructure

4.13 Analysis of findings

The study revealed that the restored farms are not fully operational due to poor support system from the government institutions. The unemployment rate is very high and most beneficiaries are depending on social grants from government to sustain their lives. The lack of resources to work the farms can result in farms being exposed to theft and vandalization. Appointment of mentors and farm managers is not useful if the necessary resources are not provided for the farms to operate. It is believed that through land restitution programme poverty can be reduced within the community.

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this chapter the conclusion is drawn based on the findings from the study. Better approach of implementing land restitution programme recommended. The approach addresses the challenges experienced by the beneficiaries of restitution programme.

5.1 Summaries of findings from the study

The study has established that beneficiaries of restitution projects are not benefiting from their restored farms as they expected. The poor support system from government institutions to restitution beneficiaries is the major threat to the viability of the restitution projects in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality and to the future restitution beneficiaries. The expectations of beneficiaries when claiming the land are not realized by the majority.

Unemployment rate and food insecurity will remain the great challenge to restitution communities as long as the support system is failing. Although a mentor and a farm manager are available at two projects, their impact is not felt due to lack of resources.

The challenges of conflicts within communities, vandalization of farms, lack of skills, insufficient infrastructure, and lack of funds to operate the farms are results of poor planning and coordination from government institutions. As a result the socio-economic status of most beneficiaries remains unchanged and the farm productions deteriorate.

5.2 Conclusion

The study concludes that over 90% of the beneficiaries of restitution farms have not benefited from the farms as they wished to. The planning and support system from government institutions is lacking and as a result the farms are underutilized. Monitoring of the farms is lacking whereas the process to access funds to operate the farms is slow and complicated. The frustrations by beneficiaries results in conflicts arising within the

communities. The job creation and food security are the highest needs of the beneficiaries followed by shelter and educational fees. The main challenges are unavailability of funds, lack of support from government institutions, Lack of skills to manage the farms, theft, and veld fires. Mentors and farm managers are necessary for the management of the farms but if the resources are not provided the managers and mentors cannot fulfill their purpose.

Restitution programme will not be beneficial if the planning, capacity building and stakeholder engagement are done after the farms have been transferred. Unavailability of funds as soon as the land is transferred to CPAs remains a constraint to the development of restitution beneficiaries.

5.3 Recommendations

5.3.1 Infrastructure development and operational capital

Restitution programme cannot succeed in improving the lives of people if government cannot provide tangible and efficient support to beneficiaries after they have acquired the farms.

RADP and CASP as indicated in chapter two are programmes which among other objectives aim to provide farm capital to restitution beneficiaries. These programmes are good initiatives to support the land reform however the challenge is the time in which the programmes are implemented. The study revealed that conflicts arise within the beneficiaries as a result of frustrations on how to manage the farms and by the time the funding through CASP and RADP comes to rescue the farm the social relationship of beneficiaries will no longer be in good state. It has also been found that the underutilization of the farms result in the farms being vandalized and when the funding is provided the farm infrastructure does no longer exist. Development and operational plans should be in place before the farm is restored. The Minister should not only grant

approval for the purchase of land only but should also approve the release and utilization of funds for implementing development and operational plans.

5.3.2 Skills development

According to the Policy framework for the Recapitalization and Development Programme (RADP) of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (accessed at www.DLA.gov.za p6 on 25th April 2012) mentorship will become a central element of the programme given the skills gap of land reform beneficiaries. The mentorship programme aims to equip all land reform projects identified under the RADP with training, marketing, finance, networking and other farm related skills.

The challenge of the mentor is that his focus will only be on capacitating beneficiaries who are employed on the farms for daily operations of the farm. It is not possible to employ all unemployed beneficiaries on the farms and those who cannot get employment on the farms will remain incapacitated. It would be best for the skills audit and profile of all beneficiaries to be compiled during the verification period before the settlement of the claim. This will provide sufficient time to coordinate the skills development plan and to ensure that the processes of benefiting from the farms start before the farms are restored to the claimants. The skills development program can capacitate the beneficiaries not only to get employment opportunities on the farms but also to be able to get employment in any sector where the skills can be relevant.

5.3.3 Business development

The unavailability of business and operational plans before the farms are restored makes it difficult for the beneficiaries to understand the nature of businesses they are going to engage in. The development planning should be in line with the needs of the beneficiaries and also address their expectations. The nature of businesses that they are expected to manage will also assist in developing their institutional arrangement and

making sure that people with relevant skills form part of the leadership. All stakeholders such as NAFU, NGOs, local commercial farmers, and others should be engaged during the planning period before the farm is transferred to claimants.

Mashala (2006:59) indicated that in rural environment with multiple market imperfections, providing beneficiaries with access to land but not with access to markets for output and credit may fail to make them better off than before. Government should negotiate with private sector especially retailers and supermarkets to enter into market contracts with the CPAs. It does not help to improve the infrastructure for the production of good quality products if the first class products are going to be sold at a third class price in the streets.

5.3.4 Monitoring and evaluation

There is no tool developed to measure the success and failure of the restitution farms. It is necessary to have a monitoring and evaluation systems in place so that any challenge can be addressed in good time.

Below is a presented diagrammatic approach to solve the problems indicated and discussed in the various chapters of the dissertation.

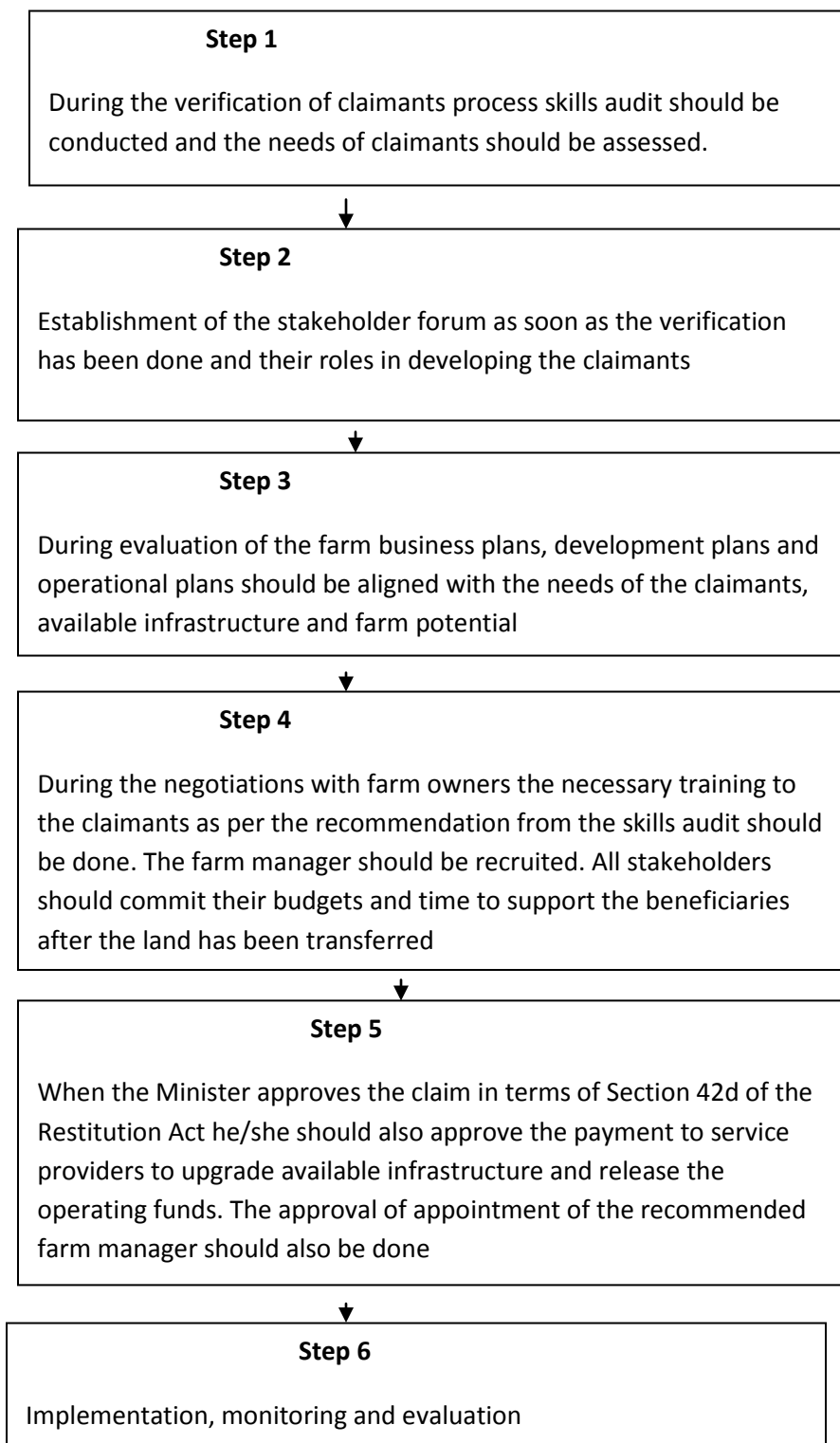


Figure. 3: Recommended approach towards restitution implementation

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ANNEXTURES

A. INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

PART A: PROFILE OF BENEFICIARY

Where do you currently stay?

What is your current employment status?

What is your educational attainment?

Can you tell me about the skills that you have?

How many people are there in your house-hold?

How many of them are females, males, youth, and disabled?

How many family members are participating in the project?

Did you receive any training before and after the restoration of the farm?

PART B: FARM BENEFITS

When was the farm acquired?

What is the size of the farm?

Are you still expecting other portions that you have claimed to be restored?

What does it mean to you to be the owner of the farm?

What were you expecting to benefit when you lodged a land claim?

How did the farm improve your livelihood?

Is there any income that you receive from the farm?

Does the farm make any profit?

What are your benefits from the farm after the harvest?

How can you compare the production of the farm before and after the farm was given to you?

Do you use the whole farm or part of the farm?

Where do you sell your products?

Can you explain to me about your involvement in the farm?

What do you understand about poverty?

What can you say about poverty amongst the beneficiaries?

Do you think the beneficiaries have relevant skills and knowledge to manage the farm?

Is there any financial aid provided to beneficiaries for educational fees?

What are the challenges experienced in the farm?

What are the opportunities that the beneficiaries can explore on the farm?

Are you satisfied with the participation of women, youth and disabled persons in the community?

Do you think it is possible for all the beneficiaries to benefit from the restored farms?

Do you think the infrastructure available on the farm is sufficient to make the farm sustainable?

PART C: SUPPORT AND SERVICES FROM GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

How were you assisted after receiving the farm?

What can you say about the quality of services from government institutions?

How would you like to be assisted by government in future?

Do you have a mentor or partner at the farm?

Can you explain the relationship that the beneficiaries have with other stakeholders?

Are you satisfied with the services that you receive from government?

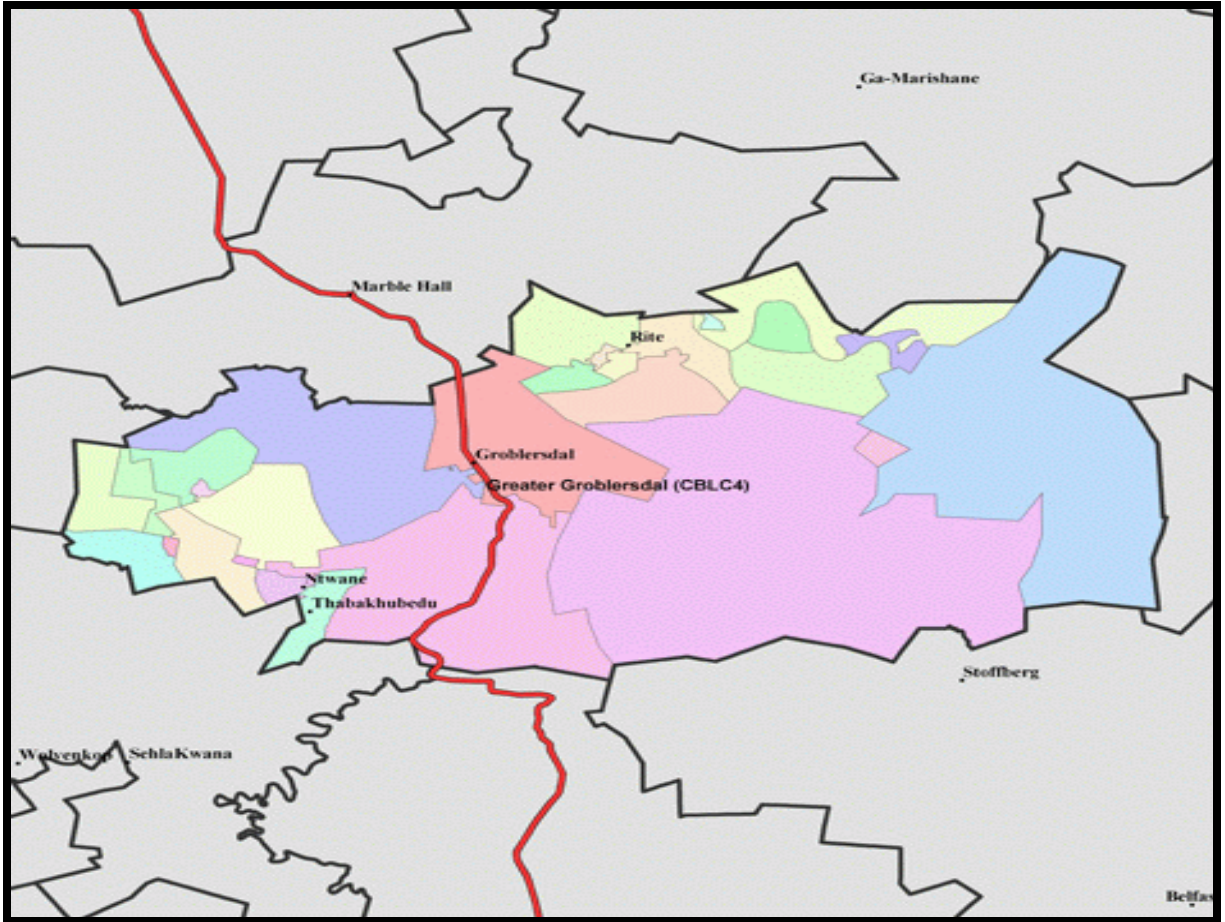
Do you think government should continue to give people land through the restitution programme?

If you can be given an opportunity to tell the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform your concerns regarding the land you received what would you tell him?

Do you have anything else to say?

Thank you for your time and participation.

Elias Motsoaledi Municipality Map



Source: Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality IDP for 2011-2012