

ZIMBABWEAN FARM COMPENSATION ISSUE: THE GLOBAL POLITICAL AGREEMENT TITLE DEEDS AND THE RIGHTS BESTOWED ON THE OWNER

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20 November 2023

I think that what we have to understand is that in the fullness of time title deeds, and the rights that title bestows on the owner of that title, will eventually hold. It always has done over thousands of years. The only times it hasn't is when the owner of that title failed to secure that title and pursue the rights that that title establishes.

So if you have proof of ownership - being title deeds - you will be alright. The title deeds relate to a certain piece of land. It doesn't relate to what is going on on that land. It doesn't relate to the economic activity or buildings or improvements or anything else. It simply relates to the piece of land with its beacons. That piece of land will remain in its geographical location forevermore. It cannot be moved. Other people can attempt to believe that they own it but the title deed will prove otherwise.

Coupled to the title deed we have other important further legal documents to bolster the proof of ownership. Most critically we have the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tribunal Judgment of 2008. This is a final and binding judgement from an African Court under an African Treaty. The title has been proven. It holds good. The acquisition process has been declared illegal.

That judgment stands in international law. Not only has it been registered here in SADC through the Constitutional Court of South Africa, but it has been registered further afield too. The Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act (ZDERA) is an act in law of the most powerful country on earth. That country, the USA, controls the purse strings for international finance.

The Zimbabwe Government knows all this. That is why they are wishing to get desperate people to enter into an agreement with them to strip them of their rights. They are using people from our ranks that some might describe as "useful fools", to push their agenda through. The "useful fools" are hoping to either become millionaires through the brokering of a rotten deal, or hoping to have the dubious privilege of being allowed to continue to farm. Whatever the case they have prostituted themselves to follow a ruinous path. Most of us see through what is being done in the name of "helping the desperate."

Hang on to your title deeds. Keep them safe. Explain this to your heirs. We are further ahead than any country before us in re-establishing the rights and value of title deeds after an illegal nationalisation process.

So Vasbyt! [Hold firm] We will prevail!

BEN FREETH

Further reading and lessons from Zimbabwe: [Protecting Property Rights Key to Economic Recovery](#)