AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF LAND REDISTRIBUTION ON THE RURAL POOR: THE CASE OF NKONKOBEO MUNICIPALITY.

BY

ZWELANDILE CYRIL HULE

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTERS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AT NELSON MANDELA METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 2009

SUPERVISOR: DR J. CHERRY
APPENDIX I
PERMISSION TO SUBMIT A TREATISE/DISSEYRTATION/THESIS
FOR EXAMINATION

Please type or complete in black ink

FACULTY: ___Business and Economic Sciences___

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT: Development Studies

I, (surname and initials of supervisor/promoter) Dr JM Cherry

the supervisor/promoter and co-supervisor/co-promoter respectively for (surname and initials of candidate)

Z C Hule

Student number 50403613

a candidate for the Degree of Masters in Development Studies


AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF LAND REDISTRIBUTION ON THE RURAL POOR: THE CASE OF Nkonkobe Municipality

hereby certify that we give the candidate permission to submit his/her treatise/dissertation/thesis for examination.

_______________________     13 January 2010
SUPERVISOR / PROMOTER     DATE
DECLARATION BY STUDENT

NAME: Zwelandile Cyril Hule

STUDENT NUMBER: 50403613

QUALIFICATION: MA Development Studies

TITLE: An exploratory study of the impact of land redistribution on the rural poor: The case of Nkonkobe Municipality

DECLARATION:

In accordance with Rule G4.6.3, I hereby declare that the above-mentioned treatise/dissertation/thesis is my own work and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment to another University or for another qualification.

SIGNATURE:

Z.C Hule

DATE: January 2010
Dedication

I dedicate all this work to my late Father Msokoli Hule and my late Mother Nongezile Hule, for their moral support throughout some rough patches and difficult times of my life not forgetting my also late brother Msondezi Hule, May their souls rest in peace.
**Acknowledgements**

First and foremost I want to thank God my savior, for had it not been for his intervention in my life I might never had studied, overcoming the impediments and the impasse of this long walk was because of his presence.

His first hand of grace has always been upon my life.

I wish to record my indebtedness to my supervisor, Dr Janet Cherry for her guidance and professional assistance from the time I started this topic.

Words of gratitude to my brothers and sisters for their moral support throughout the duration of the study. Not only did they made it possible for me to do my masters degree but through supporting me financially, emotionally and through much prayer, they had given me the most wonderful present.

I am also indebted to the Sontshi family for their moral support through tough times, a friend of mine Kose. S who made it possible for me to study and my colleague L.S. Gungu for his encouragements when need arose.

Lastly, special thanks to Mrs Omaya and her staff from Missionvale campus formerly known as Vista and all my key informants from various districts of Nkonkobe Municipality.
**Abstract**

This is an exploratory study of the impact of the land redistribution programme on the rural poor of Nkonkobe Municipality. There is a brief historical overview of land redistribution in the South African context. The study demonstrates the impact of the programme of land redistribution and its challenges for the rural poor. The critical question is whether the programme benefitted the rural poor of Nkonkobe Municipality.

Chapter one deals with the aims of the research, background of the study, sub-related questions, delimitation of the study and the research method.

Chapter two deals with the theoretical framework, a brief description of the study area, a discussion of the land question in South Africa including land reform experiences, redistribution policy and the government land reform programme.

Chapter three deals with methodology, discussing the research design and research methods used.

Chapter four deals with findings and recommendations.
TABLE OF CONTENTS
Title page
Declaration
Acknowledgements
Dedication
Abstract

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Background of the study 1
1.2 The significance of the study 5
1.3 Research problem 5
1.4 Sub-related questions 5
1.5 Definition of terms 6
1.5.1 Land redistribution 6
1.5.2 Land restitution 6
1.6 Delimitation of the study 7
1.7 Aims of the study 7

CHAPTER TWO

2. Literature review 8
2.1 A brief description of the study area 8
2.2 Demographic indicators 9
2.3 Overview and analysis of the development context 9
2.4 Economic activity indicators 10
2.5 Socio-economic indicators 11
2.6 Land question in South Africa
2.7 Land reform experiences
2.8 Policy of redistribution
2.9 The government’s land reform programme
2.9.1 Poverty focus
2.9.2 Government facilitator
2.9.3 Participation, accessibility and democratic decision-making
2.10 Priorities for a redistributive land reform programme
2.11 Land redistribution
2.12 Redistributive reform and public land availability
2.13 The evolution of land policy in South Africa
2.14 The land clause in the Freedom Chapter reads as follows:
2.15 Rural Development, Land Reform and Agrarian Change
2.16 Evidence
2.17 Redistribution
2.18 Conclusion

CHAPTER THREE

3. Research Methodology
3.1 Introduction
3.2 Research Method
3.3 Research Design
3.4 Questionnaire and interview
3.4.1 Open-ended question
3.4.2 Semi-structured interviews
3.5 Sample of the population
3.5.1 Population 28
3.5.2 Sample size table 29

CHAPTER FOUR

4. Findings and Recommendations 31
4.1 Introduction 31
4.2 Map of Nkonkobe Municipality 32
4.3 Level of information and awareness 33
4.4 Recommendations 37
4.4.1 Capacity building of the beneficiaries 37
4.4.2 Information dissemination 38
4.4.2 Expropriation 39

CHAPTER FIVE

5. Conclusion 40
Bibliography 42
Appendix 44
CHAPTER ONE: Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

The focus of this study is to evaluate the current South African land redistribution policy and explore its impact on the rural poor in Nkonkobe Municipality. Because of the necessity of land reform, in particular land redistribution, this study seeks to promote efficiency in the redistribution of agricultural land in Nkonkobe Municipality.

The Nkonkobe Municipality is situated in Eastern Cape in the Amathole District, bordering the Nxuba and Amahlathi Municipalities to the east and west respectively. The municipality has a predominantly rural population with only 20% living in towns of Alice and Fort Beaufort. Nkonkobe Municipality is a product of the amalgamation of Alice, Fort Beaufort, Middledrift, Hogsback, and Seymour.

After the democratic elections of 1994, the government of National Unity identified the need to address the legacy of forced removals, dispossession and racially skewed land redistribution practices (Donaldson & Marais; 2002).

Land redistribution is a form of intervention undertaken with the primary purpose of redressing the imbalances of the previous government. Victims of
previous discrimination are the central focus, as there is a need to grant these people a special treatment as a way of compensating for past wrongs and enhancing equality in society.

**The central question that this study seeks to address is the impact of the land redistribution programme on the rural poor of Nkonkobe Municipality.**

In trying to redress the imbalances of the past, what is the role of land redistribution in poverty alleviation, specifically in the rural community of Nkonkobe Municipality?

How does the exclusion of women from access to land impact on women? Currently, the ‘permission to occupy’ certificates have generally been allocated to male households.

Is there any mechanism that could be used in educating the rural poor community as little is known about the programme in Nkonkobe Municipality? Education level in Nkonkobe Municipality area is low with 19% of the population having no formal education. Only 8% have matriculated and 3% have matriculated with post-metric qualification.

What kinds of post-settlement support services do land redistribution beneficiaries require, and who will provide them?

If land redistribution programme could be implemented efficiently, poverty could be reduced as right now the income levels of the poor is extremely low
with a significant portion of people without income at all and are currently accounting for 74% of the population of Nkonkobe. Those people coupled with people earning less than R 800 accounts for 93% of the people of Nkonkobe Municipality (Nkonkobe IDP Review2006/7).

Educating rural poor about the programme and equip them with a better infrastructure as there is a lack of services and infrastructure to enhance farming can be wise step in combating poverty in this area.

Agriculture in Nkonkobe Municipality area is currently an underdeveloped sector. The Municipality being rural in nature, requires should be given attention as it represents an economic potential in the region. If beneficiaries can be well equipped to sustain their land, this can create opportunities for employment for the rural unemployed.

Furthermore this study will contribute to the advancement in rural community regarding land redistribution programme and they then will be able to make well informed decisions in relation to compensation and land claims issue.
1.2 The significance of the study

This thesis is an attempt to investigate the impact of land redistribution among rural poor. The researcher wishes to explore the challenges of land redistribution in former homeland areas of Eastern Cape (Nkonkobe Municipality).

1.3 Research Problem

The researcher wishes to question who has benefited from land redistribution policies implemented in the post-apartheid era. This study will focus on the impact of land redistribution on the rural poor in the Nkonkobe Municipality.

1.4 Sub-related questions

2.1.1. Is this programme benefiting the poor of the poorest specifically in rural communities of Nkonkobe Municipality?

2.1.2. What kinds of post-settlement support services do land reform beneficiaries require, and who will provide them?
1.5 Definition of terms

1.5.1 Land redistribution
Land redistribution is state attempts to broaden access to land for the dispossessed by purchasing privately-owned land and by transferring public land to targeted individuals and communities (Coetzee et al 2001).

1.5.2 Land restitution
It is a South African government policy to compensate individuals and communities who were expropriated as a result of apartheid policies (Coetzee et al 2001).
1.6 Delimitation of the study

The main aim of the study is to explore the impact of land redistribution on rural poor. The geographic area of the study is the Nkonkobe Municipality. The target population is the rural households within the geographic area (Fort Beaufort, Alice, Seymour, Hogsback and Middledrift.

1.7 Aims of the study

The aim of the study was to investigate the impact of land redistribution on rural poor specifically in Nkonkobe Municipality

These far-reaching objectives were derived from an understanding that land redistribution has the potential to make a direct impact on poverty through targeted resource transfers, while simultaneously addressing the economic and social injustice caused by colonial and apartheid dispossession.
CHAPTER TWO . Literature Review

2.1. A brief description of the study area

“Nkonkobe extends over 3725.32ha of the former magisterial districts of Alice, Balfour, Hogsback, Fort Beaufort, Middledrift and Seymour. It consists of 21 wards and 41 municipal councils (McCann, 2003:28). It is mostly an agricultural area. It has an average population density of 43 persons per hectare. The urban areas of the Nkonkobe municipality account for the biggest concentration of its population. The Fort Beaufort area is the most densely populated accounting for a population range of 3 035-6 719 persons per hectare” (Nkonkobe IDP, 11:2005). “Alice Town and its immediate surrounding areas account for the second highest range of population density with a range of 1 278-3 034 persons per hectare. The rural areas in close proximity to urban nodes are relatively more densely populated than the hinterlands. They are, however, less densely populated than the urban nodes: Alice, Balfour, Hogsback, Middledrift, Fort Beaufort and Seymour account for a population density range of 745-1 277 per hectare” (IDP,2005:12).

“In 12 wards of the municipal area Africans account for 95% of the population except for wards 10,14,15,16 and 17 which either are dominated by other population groups, or such groups show a strong presence particularly the white and coloured population groups. There is a correlation between population density and land availability. The higher the population density, the less land is available and vice versa. There is less land available within the urban nodes for development purposes other than residential
relative to rural nodes which are sparsely populated with large tracts of land lying fallow” (IDP, 2005:12). This assertion is of utmost importance when considering the massive problems of underdevelopment facing this municipality. The rate of unemployment is high coupled with acute service backlogs. In light of the foregoing, the need to ensure optimal deployment of scarce resources through proper planning cannot be overemphasised.

2.2. Demographic indicators

“The Nkonkobe Local Municipality has an estimated population of 160 311 some of whom reside on farms and scattered settlements. The majority resides in rural villages. Only 19% of the population resides in urban settlements, mostly Alice and Fort Beaufort, where the main concentration occurs. The implication hereof is that this is a rural municipality with a rural: urban ratio standing at approximately 4:1. To draw a clear picture of the socioeconomic features of the Nkonkobe Municipality” (Census: 2001).

2.3 Overview and analysis of the development context

The view of the economic activity will enhance the understanding of the structure of the Nkonkobe economy, the processes that link different parts of the economy together, and why the economy has followed its specific development path. This in turn provides the foundation for analysing different development strategies with the purpose of influencing positively the development path of the economy. It is also important to assess the reasons of the failure of projects and the organization structures. A key aim
of this study is therefore to explore the impact of land redistribution on rural poor.

2.4 Economic activity indicators

“Nkonkobe has high rates of unemployment (67.61%) and poverty (71.43%) and a higher than dependency ratio” (2.56) (IDP, 2005:13).

“Overall very high levels of unemployment prevail with many households being sustained through remittances of income from a single wage earner and various small scale enterprises. Of those employed the large proportion are in the public sector: education and health. This is reflected in the higher levels of income in the area of Alice. The dependency of income from the public sector is mainly the result of the productive base of local economy being narrow based on commercial farming, forestry and to a lesser extent tourism, much of which is focused on Fort Beaufort area. While revenue is generated in these areas, the allocation of land for large scale commercial farming of forestry does not support broad-based-employment generation and incomes of the majority are very low despite the commercial activity” (Makapela, Malikane and Roberts, 2001:3)

Makapela, Malikane and Roberts (2001:3) further argue that...“in Nkonkobe, employment levels and incomes are lowest, and poverty levels are highest in the Seymour and Middledrift areas. These areas are composed of scattered villages which neither have a strong productive base, given relatively poor land, nor the high levels of public sector employment. There are, however, a range of economic activities taking place: small-scale vegetable and poultry
production; and manufacturing enterprises which are owner-funded. Improvements in infrastructure may enhance the viability of these ventures”.

2.5 Socio-economic profile

The socio-economic profile of the Nkonkobe Municipality reflects the historical legacy of the apartheid system. The municipal area is characterised by high levels of unemployment. The education profile of the municipality also fits well within the framework of the apartheid era in which black people in general were confined to the lowest rungs of the education system. The sparse distribution of the landscape also necessitates the installation of physical infrastructure to ensure effective delivery of social and other services.

According to the 2001 Census, “the Nkonkobe Municipal area has a population size of 160 311. The gender ratio indicates that 40% of the total population is male with females accounting 60%. However, there are some areas where males are the dominant component of the population. The age distribution of the area is skewed towards the youth, with children under 15 years constituting the majority of the population. These statistics validate the decision to develop special programme units focused on the youth, women and disabled. The Nkonkobe Municipal area is predominantly rural. The 2001 Census reveals that 76% of the population is located in rural areas. The Municipal area is predominantly African in terms of racial composition with the latter accounting for 96% with coloured and whites sharing only 4% of the population between them”.
2.6 Land Question in South Africa

Ntsebeza and Hall (2007:2) argue that “ten years of democracy in South Africa have seen some impressive achievements in addressing the unbearable legacy of apartheid. Economic growth has occurred, inflation has been kept under control and the provision of infrastructure and social services to ordinary citizens has dramatically improved. However, despite these achievements, there is compelling evidence that structural poverty, a key apartheid legacy, is deepening. Unemployment has risen rapidly over the past decade and over half of all South Africans live in poverty”.

With regard to land, it is undeniable that the pace of delivery is slow. This is disturbing given that one of the key challenges facing the post-1994 South African state is how to reverse the racial inequalities in land resulting from colonial conquest and the violent dispossession of indigenous of their land.

“Historically, white settlers in South Africa appropriated more than 90 per cent of the land surface under the 1913 Native Land Act, confining the indigenous people to reserves in the remaining marginal portions of land”. (Ntsebeza & Hall, 2007:2).
2.7. Land Reform Experiences

Comparing land redistribution with Zimbabwe’s land reform, Moyo (2000:72) maintains that...“Zimbabwe’s land question is a classic case of racial and class-based inequalities in the control and access to rural lands and natural resources of varied economic and ecological potentials, as well as of the equitable control of related commodity and capital markets”.

2.8. Policy of redistribution

“The purpose of land redistribution is to provide the poor with land for residential and productive purposes in order to improve their livelihoods. The government provides a single and yet flexible redistribution mechanism which can embrace the wide variety of land needs of eligible applicants. Land redistribution is therefore intended to assist the urban and rural poor, farm workers, labour tenants, as well as emergent farmers” (Miller 2000:399).

Redistribution is not a legal mechanism as such but rather a programme involving the promotion and provision of state aid and assistance, financial and in terms of the process of implementation, directed to the acquisition of land by the person prejudiced by the unfair system of the old regime. Redistribution is a means of promoting the acquisition of real rights in land by recourse to conventional mechanisms (Miller, 2000:400).

Miller (2000:398) argues that...“land reform programme’s poverty focus is aimed at achieving a better quality of life for the most disadvantaged.
Therefore there are matters which land policy must address”. Firstly, the difficulty of finding an appropriate response to the widely differing needs and aspiration of people for land in a manner that is equitable and affordable but at the same time contributing to poverty alleviation and to national economic growth.

Secondly, how to address the urgent and immediate cases for the landlessness and homelessness which often result in land invasion. Thirdly, how to make available commonage land for poor residents of rural towns who wish to supplement their incomes.

Miller (2000:400) further maintains that...“land redistribution programme will give priority to projects ranked on the basis of four criteria. These are as follows: First, the most critical and desperate needs will be given urgent attention with priority going to the marginalised people; secondly, given limited institutional capacity to deliver and the need to initiate, priority should be given to projects where the institutional capacity exists to implement effectively, thirdly, redistribution must ensure the viability and sustainability of intended land use, paying particular attention to fiscal sustainability by the local authority, environmental sustainability, proximity and access to markets and employment, availability of water and bulk infrastructure, fourthly, priority should be given to achieving a wide geographical spread and diversity of land redistribution projects throughout the country”. 
2.9. The government’s land reform programme

The government’s land reform policy is underlined by the following principles:

2.9.1 Poverty focus: “priority is to be given to the poor who are in need of land to contribute to income and food security. State assistance in land acquisition must be given primarily to communities and groups unable to enter the land market. The financing arrangements to the programme must be structured to ensure access for people with little or no equity” (Elbadawi &Hartzenberg 2000:157).

2.9.2 Government as facilitator: “Due to the marginalisation of rural people and the weaknesses of rural organisation, the government is concerned that the demands of the most needy will not be articulated in an organised way. The government is therefore committed to facilitate the expression of demand, to educate and inform people about options, and to initiate programs based on broad demand at specific beneficiary groups” (Elbadawi &Hartzenberg 2000:157).

2.9.3 Participation, accessibility and democratic decision making: “The participation of the communities and individuals as equal partners with government and other agencies is necessary. Decisions must be made democratically at local level. The extent to which this is achieved depends on organisation and capacity building, establishment of sound and simple
administrative processes to support land reform, the development of local (Elbadawi & Hartzenberg 2000:158).

2.10 Priorities for a redistributive land reform programme

Ntsebeza & Hall (2007:134) note that...“there are additional observations that inform the selection of priorities; the first is that South Africa is no longer an agrarian society, but the non-agrarian economy is failing dismally to absorb the unemployed as well new work seekers, and this is unlikely to change in the near medium future, hence the potential importance of land poor and marginalised people”.

“The second is that redistributing land to the poor and marginalised cannot, itself, guarantee them significantly enhanced incomes, livelihoods or even a stronger sense of social well-being nor can it guarantee social stability to the broader society. Land redistribution can make a contribution to economic development at both household and societal level, but this is not assured as one certainly cannot assume that is a cure for deeply entrenched problems of poverty, inequality and social dislocation” (Ntsebeza & Hall, 2007:134).

“The third premise is that limited ‘state capacity’, but an institutional reality knitted into the fabric of state operations, which will persist into the foreseeable future. If this is acknowledged, then its impact on state development programmes must be factored into the way in which these programmes are conceptualised, implementation planned, and alternatives posed” (Ntsebeza & Hall, 2007:134).
2.11 Land redistribution

Ntsebeza & Hall (2007:4) capture this very well, when they maintain that…“land redistribution programme was to address the divide between the 87 per cent of the land dominated by white commercial farming and the 13 per cent in the former homelands. Redistribution therefore, was to ease congestion in the communal areas and diversify the ownership structure of commercial farmland. In the first ten years of land reform, most land transfers were through the redistribution programme, with restitution contribution just less than a third of the total. The total land redistributed through redistribution and tenure reform, as of September 2004 was nearly 1.9 hectares. Apart from its slow progress, land redistribution policy has also changed what the programme is supposed to achieve and whom it is meant to benefit”.

2. 12 Redistributive Reform and Public Land Availability

West (2000:129) argues that…“the type of reform now being brought into effect in South Africa has redistributive objectives similar to those of the Asian models, in that the beneficiaries are to be by intention the underprivileged, the very poor, the labour tenants and farm workers, women householders and small groups of emergent farmers. But its method of application will be fundamentally different; in that it will rely not on officially prescribed ‘ceilings’ and executive action, but rather upon individual or group initiatives, an assisted market in land, and improved financial services; and its eventual settlement pattern is likely to be more
widely dispersed; rather than the concentration of beneficiaries on land parcels recently declared to be in excess of ‘ceilings’.

West (2000:47) further argues that...“reliance on an assisted land market clearly arises from government’s determination to follow a reconciliatory path towards greater social equity. To apply compulsory ‘ceiling’ legislation under the existing racist pattern of land ownership would inevitably be construed as a direct and exclusive attack on white ownership and could therefore be declared *ultra vires* the new constitution. It would also disrupt the most productive agricultural sub-sector, already threatened by the loss of state subsidies; and it would not be possible to replace relatively efficient white farmers; nor simple transfer subsidies from one group to the other”.

### 2.13 The evolution of land policy in South Africa

Coetzee et al (2001:294) contend that...“land policy does not emerge out of a vacuum. It is firmly rooted in a political and historical context. The land policy that evolved in South Africa, following the demise of apartheid in 1994, is no exception. It must be analysed against the backdrop of the changes that the new government has brought about, and the constraints placed upon it by the nature of the transition from apartheid to democracy”.

Coetzee et al (2001:294) further argue that...“the evolution of the ANC’s approach to the land question can be traced through the important policy document of the organization: Freedom Charter of 1955 and the Reconstruction and Development Programme of 1993”.
2.14 The land clause in the Freedom Charter:

The relevant clause in the Freedom Charter reads as follows: “The land shall be shared by those who work it. Restrictions of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land re-divided among those who work it, to banish famine and land hunger. The state shall help the peasants with implements, seeds, tractors and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers. Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on land. All shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose. People shall not be robbed of their cattle, and forced labour and farm prisons shall be abolished” (ANC policy guidelines, 1992:17).

“At the National Conference of the ANC in 1992, guidelines were adopted, amongst which included a new policy on agriculture and land. It calls for a redistribution of the following categories of land: vacant, unused, and underutilized state land; land helps for speculation; land which is being degraded; and hopelessly indebted land”. (ANC policy guidelines 1992:17).

“Altogether, the programme aimed to redistribute thirty per cent of agricultural land within five years and envisaged that land restitution be completed simultaneously, without any disruption to agricultural production on the white commercial farms” (Coetzee et al, 2001:301).

The crucial question, of course, is where this thirty per cent of land would come from. In the absence of any operational details for the policy, it remained at the level of rhetoric.
2.15 Rural Development, Land Reform and Agrarian Change

“Current approaches to land reform are not achieving the scale or outcomes required for the realisation of a better life for rural South Africans. The programme had only succeeded in redistributing 4% of agricultural land since 1994, while more than 80% of agricultural land remains in the hands of fewer than 50,000 white farmers and agribusinesses. The willing-buyer willing-seller approach to land acquisition has constrained the pace and efficacy of land redistribution. It is clear that the market is unable to effectively alter the patterns of land ownership in favour of an equitable and efficient distribution of land” (52nd ANC National Conference Report:2007).

Since its inception, the programme has failed to reach or deliver on its multiple objectives of historical redress, redistribution of wealth and opportunities and economic growth. Its weakness is the slow pace of redistribution of wealth and the failure impacts significantly on land tenure system
2.16 Evidence

Aninka & Cousins (2008:213) contend that...“the description and intervention of rights with regard to land within African communities was also influenced by a powerful strand of social Darwinism in British 19th century official and legal thinking, which saw indigenous communities as being at a lower level of social evolution. According to this view, private property was the mark of civilization while less evolved societies were believed to have weak communal rights. The presumed absence of more ‘advanced’ individual rights of ownership within African societies also provided a convenient justification for seizing the land of colonised people. These perspectives, especially in combination, tended to lead towards an exaggeration of chiefly power, particularly over land, and to understatement and misconceptualisation of the rights of subjects and of the occupants and users of the land.”

2.17 Redistribution

Lahiff (2008:8) states that...“redistribution is still affected largely by means of discretionary grants provided by DLA for the purchase of land on the open market. The introduction of PLASS in 2006, however, has led to a growing proportion of land being purchased directly by the state, albeit still on the basis of voluntary transactions and at agreed (i.e. ‘market based’). A potential worrying trend is for land to be purchased by the state without first identifying the intended owners of that land, implying that policy may be swinging from an entirely ‘demand led’ approach to one that is increasingly ‘supply led’. This implies that prospective beneficiaries may not be directly
involved in the purchase decision or in the immediate post-purchase planning for land, opening up the possibility of a more top-down (‘statist’) approach to both project implementation and beneficiary selection”.

2.18 Conclusion

Drawing conclusion from what has been discussed in this chapter, little is known about the nature and demand for land in South Africa. “The few survey of land have been heavily criticised and debated, and have relied on attitudinal surveys” (Ntsebeza, 2007:7). While the question of how many want land for agricultural purposes has not been satisfactorily answered at a national level, there does seem to be evidence that, across parts of the country, there are people who are in need of land.

In trying to delve deeper in this study various aspects has been discussed and a brief overview of the study area had been outlined; land reform experiences, government’s land reform priorities and the evolution of land reform policy in South Africa are also discussed.
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The researcher wished to record that he resided amongst the poor within the Nkonkobe Municipal Region and therefore he was familiar with these communities and their daily challenges. In fact it is these very challenges that influenced his decision to embark on this study and the researcher was driven by the need for a better understanding of the impact of the land redistribution programme on the rural poor.

The nature of the study the researcher is pursuing was exploratory in nature, which would attempt to provide insights into relatively unknown research areas.

3.2. Research Method

The researcher utilised qualitative method to analyse data based on interpretive and theoretical findings of primary data, such as conversation and observation. A qualitative approach has two phenomena in which one focuses on the natural settings, while the other involves the complexity. Qualitative research deals with subjective data that are produced by the minds of respondents or interviewees.

Furthermore, qualitative research is based on flexible and explorative methods because it enables the researcher to change the data progressively
so that a deeper understanding of what is being investigated can be achieved (Welman, et al., 2005:8).

The purpose of quantitative research is not to deal directly with everyday life, but rather with an abstraction of reality.

The researcher tried to investigate the facts of his study from an outside perspective, thus it was be important for him to keep an objective view of the facts.

Qualitative researchers work with the dynamic and changeable nature of reality (Welman, et al., 2005:8). Qualitative research makes use of a holistic approach, that is, the researcher would be able to collect a wide array of data using documents, questionnaires, observations and interviews (Welman, et al., 2005:9).

3.3. Research Design

This research was based on a qualitative study of rural residents of Nkonkobe Municipality. A sample of 143 residents in different categories, including beneficiaries of land reform, was interviewed using a semi-structured interview schedule. The interviews were conducted over a period of three months, from July to September 2009.

The evidence obtained from the interviews and questionnaires was analysed together with other primary sources such as observation to produce findings
on whether and how rural residents of Nkonkobe Municipality had benefited from land redistribution programmes.

“Research design is a plan, structure and strategy of investigation so as to obtain answers to research questions or problem. The plan is the complete scheme or programme of the research. It includes the outline of what the investigator will do from writing the hypotheses and their operational implications to the final analysis of the data” (Kumar, 1999:74).

“Research design is a strategic framework for action that serves as a bridge between research questions and the execution or implementation of the research.” (Blanche & Durrheim, 1999:29) They further maintain that research designs are plans that guide the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in manner that aims to combine the relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure.

Thyer (1993:94) maintains that “a traditional research design is a blueprint or detailed plan of how a research study is to be completed - operationalizing variables so they can be measured, selecting a sample of interest to study, collecting a data to be used as a basis for testing hypotheses, and analysing the results”.

3.4. Questionnaire/interview

(Ryan, 2002: 4) refers to three types of data variables that can be collected through questionnaires: opinion, behaviour and attribute data. The questionnaire was used to collect opinion data. He further maintained that
the validity and reliability of data and response rate achieved depends on the design of the questions (Ryan, 2002:6).

Questionnaires as a tool are not set out to change people’s attitudes or provide them with information but the main purpose is to discover things. This technique is used to gather information by asking people directly about the points concerned with research. Questionnaires work on the premise that if one wants to find out something about people and their attitudes, one simple goes and ask them what one wants to know, and gets the information directly from them. Questionnaires that are administered face-to-face with the respondent are available for social research.

In relation to what the researcher seeks to achieve, this technique will be appropriate for his study.

3.4.1Open-ended-questions

“Open ended questions are those which give the respondents maximum freedom to present their views. They allow them to digress from the matter at hand. These questions leave the respondent to decide the wording of the answer, the length of the answer and the kind of matters to be raised in the answer. The advantage of open ended questions is that the information gathered by way of responses is more likely to reflect the full richness and complexity of the views held by the respondent”(Babbie & Mouton, 2001:233).
3.4.2 Semi-structured interviews

Semi-structured interviews are conducted with a fairly open framework which allow for focused, conversational, two-way communication. Less intrusive to those being interviewed as the semi-structured interview encourages two-way communication. Those being interviewed can ask questions of the interviewer. In this way it can also function as an extension tool.

This tool provides insight to individual or group decision-making and identifies the criteria that people use to select certain items or activities. When used with different groups and compared, it can pin-point the differences in perception between groups such as those with land and landless (Leedy.D.P and Omrod.E J, 2001)

The researcher brought into play semi-structured interviews as well as open-ended questionnaires to enable him to delve deeper and gain an in-depth insight into the impact of land redistribution on the rural poor of the Nkonkobe Municipal region.

3.5 Sample of the population

The research understanding, the use of technical terms such as ‘sample’ and ‘population’ are important. Blanche & Durrheim, (1999:44) elaborates that “the term sample involves decision about which people, settings, events, behaviour and social processes to observe, for instance if groups are unit of analysis, groups should be sampled, and ten individual representatives
within each groups could be sampled to select individuals to interview. That means sample is a subset of a population”.

**3.5.1 Population**

The target population therefore consists of organisations, people or systems to which or to whom the survey findings are to be applied. The nitty-gritty of the study is to explore the impact of land redistribution on rural poor.

Population is the “total collection of elements about which one wishes to make some inferences”. Welman & Kruger (2001:46) contend that “population is the study of objects, which may be individuals, groups, organisations, human products and events or the conditions to which they are exposed”.

Bless (1995:89) maintains that “the term population is used to refer to all individuals about whom the research project is meant to generalised”. In this study the term population refers to the rural residents of Nkonkobe Municipality, including the following categories of informants: traditional leaders, farm workers, farmers, beneficiaries of land reform, women, and individual households. The researcher identifies himself with the research population through social background and can therefore argue a better understanding of their language, their culture and their mode of life.
### 3.5.2 Sample size table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICTS</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Traditional leaders</th>
<th>Farmers</th>
<th>Farm workers</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle Drift</td>
<td>2 per Village in five districts</td>
<td>1 per district</td>
<td>1 per district</td>
<td>2 per district</td>
<td>2 per district</td>
<td>2 per village in five districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice</td>
<td>2 Per village in five districts</td>
<td>1 per district</td>
<td>1 per district</td>
<td>2 per village in five districts</td>
<td>2 per district</td>
<td>2 per village in five districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Beaufort</td>
<td>2 per village in five districts</td>
<td>1 per district</td>
<td>1 per district</td>
<td>2 per village in five districts</td>
<td>2 per district</td>
<td>2 per village in five districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hogs back</td>
<td>2 per village in five districts</td>
<td>1 per district</td>
<td>1 per district</td>
<td>2 per village in five districts</td>
<td>2 per district</td>
<td>2 per village in five districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seymour</td>
<td>2 per village in five districts</td>
<td>1 per district</td>
<td>1 per district</td>
<td>2 per village in five districts</td>
<td>2 per district</td>
<td>2 per village in five districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The researcher drew the sample from 5 districts in the Nkonkobe Municipality. The above table shows the sample size of the population that the researcher interviewed to attain the knowledge he required. The researcher intended to interview 170 respondents but because of some
financial constraints he managed to interview 143. The target sample size is
the top figure and the actual sample size is given in brackets below.

Of the total sample of 143, a smaller sample of traditional leaders, farmers
and beneficiaries were selected, as they are representative of minorities
within the population. A larger sample of households, farm workers and
women was selected, as they make up the majority of the rural population.

Five questionnaires/interview schedules were designed and administered,
with different questions for each of the target groups (see Appendices). The
questionnaires were administered face-to-face by the researcher in the form
of an interview schedule with most categories of respondents – the
households, traditional leaders, farm workers and farmers. The questionnaire
was administered through being distributed for completion and later
collected from the programme beneficiaries and the women.

Interviews were conducted to gain an in-depth insight into the challenges
faced by the rural poor of Nkonkobe Municipality on the sustainability of
land use.
CHAPTER 4: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Introduction

In 1994, South Africa’s democratically elected government adopted a land reform programme in order to address the highly unequal patterns of land ownership and widespread rural poverty resulting from colonial land alienation and decades of apartheid rule.

This chapter seeks to discuss the findings with regard to land redistribution as one of the elements of land reform. The chapter will unravel the impact of land redistribution on the rural poor of Nkonkobe Municipality.

Land is a fundamental source of livelihood for many of the rural poor in this region and a basis for wealth and economic development. Despite the political demands for land redistribution, much of Nkonkobe Municipality’s population possesses few farming skills and aspirations.
4.2 This is the Map of Nkonkobe Municipality which illustrates all the districts of this area in question.
4.3 Level of information and awareness of the land redistribution programme

Land redistribution continues to exclude the great majority from the economic landscape. Most respondents from various districts of Nkonkobe Municipality indicate a lack of information with regard to the land redistribution programme, and the question arises, who benefits if the rural poor are unaware of the programme?

The diverse nature of the rural poor in the Nkonkobe Municipality indicates that their information needs are many and multidimensional. It is very important to determine the totality of their information needs with regard to the land issue.

Information hunger is prevalent in the rural community of the Nkonkobe Municipality. Rural dwellers need relevant information with regard to the land reform programme, and lack of information contributes to the underdevelopment of rural areas of Nkonkobe Municipality.

The success of rural development depends largely on the availability of resources and the quality of information given to the rural community by the rural development practitioners. Therefore the land redistribution programme is doomed to fail, as it has been planned with insufficient relevant information. Most of the respondents are not are aware of the existence of this programme, more especially the poorest of the poor and illiterate residents.
The low response obtained from farm workers to this question indicates the lack of information available to farm workers with regard to the land redistribution programme. To date government has not prioritized farm workers for provision of land. Government’s vision of land redistribution to date has been one of large-scale commercial farms. There have been few cases of land in Nkonkobe being subdivided into smaller units for the poor.

Some respondents among the farm workers have children, and have worked on farms for a long time but they said: “We don’t even have something we can call our own, we are still paid wages that are way below minimum, despite working hard.”

Similarly, 85% of the women’s response demonstrated a lack of information and that little had been done to help them acquire land as they said: “It is very difficult for us to find land. Farm owners sell to each other instead of building the capacity of emerging black farmers.”

Women are capable of producing if given resources, as a group of them in one of the villages in Middledrift district are living off a piece of land which they turned into a vegetable garden. Women are farming and selling the products. This shows that given a piece of land and government support they can do more.

Women respondents agreed with each other when they said that they experience problems differently from their male counterparts with regard to land, in ways that go beyond their restricted access to land and exclusion from decision-making affecting their own lives and work.
Women’s lack of access to land is a contributing factor to women’s inability to overcome poverty in Nkonkobe Municipality. Discriminatory customary and social practices are responsible for these inequities.

This is corroborated by poverty alleviation projects such as Siyazondla, where at least nine women are among 19 beneficiaries of the Homestead Gardens Programme Kit in Alice at Benefield, and the community of Nkonkobe was elated by the Department of Agriculture’s efforts to curb the poverty rate in the area.

90% of the household respondents lack information with regard to the programme and poverty is prevalent in these communities. The results emphasized the low asset status of most households and their striking dependence upon public transfers, in particular old age pensions and disability grants. For better-off households, it is participation in paid employment that enables them to avoid poverty. Of the 39 rural households interviewed, 36 indicated that they depend on small livestock for subsistence needs. The availability of land is an obstacle to their subsistence farming, as some of the respondents mentioned. From these respondents, the conclusion can be drawn that the current land redistribution programme has had little impact in alleviating poverty among the rural poor in this municipality.

**Beneficiaries:** All of the ten beneficiaries interviewed pointed out that there is a lack of government support and planning for the beneficiaries, as some are young and lack experience. Of the ten beneficiaries interviewed, seven said that their farms are no longer productive because of lack of training and that there is no strategic guidance and a systematic mentoring
programme. As a result they ‘freeze’ in the face of an overwhelming challenge. They also cited the lack of skills and capacity to manage their land, lack of agricultural training techniques, livestock management, financial management so that communities around Nkonkobe can realize the potential of their newly acquired land and improve their standard of living.

Farmers need to sustain themselves and their households from the income of the farm and not only the farming venture and they tend to favour sustaining themselves in tough times instead of putting money back into business. Farmers tend to pay their creditors first and then show their commitment to update their water accounts as a result of cashflow problem.

All of the five black emerging farmers interviewed cited the following limiting factors to expansion of their farming; tractors and services, unstable water supply by the department of water affairs, lack of capital, unstable profit margins, uncertainty of government policy with regard to tax and lack of infrastructure development, lack of land for expansion and security as they mentioned some stock theft.

Traditional leaders noted that land redistribution has been badly planned and that there is a gender bias against women, thus many of women in their districts are not well informed about land redistribution programme. All of the five traditional leaders cited the lack of skills and resources and that there is no government-community-partnership, with government providing support. Little has been done to empower them in order to educate their communities about land redistribution.
4.4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.4.1 Capacity building of the land redistribution beneficiaries

- Government should provide mentoring of beneficiaries and improvement of access to land, finance, and resources for new and established entrants to farming.

- There is a need for building the capacity of the emerging farmers, including technical assistance and bookkeeping skills.

- Emerging farmers need assistance with investment and risk sharing.

- Government should provide post settlement support to beneficiaries of the land reform programme.

- There should be systematic monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the beneficiaries.

- There is a need for training and development of farmers, in particular the provision of training on alternative farming methods, e.g. organic farming, pest control, human resources, farming enterprise and water management.
• Women should be capacitated and educated on current land policies, ensuring that they are well conversant with their rights, particularly land rights

• Ensuring sustainability through promotion of Black Economic Empowerment, beneficiary participation in mentoring programmes.

4.4.2 Information dissemination amongst the rural poor

• Government should provide information dissemination and capacity workshops to promote community awareness about land redistribution.

• Government should provide information on the current support available from government.

• Information material on government support for agricultural activities should be made available to communities.

• Communities must be informed about their rights and opportunities linked to land redistribution programme.

• Government should conduct information workshops and meetings.
4.4.3 Expropriation

- As a process of establishing social equality, expropriation of land should be considered by government as a solution, as the ‘willing buyer willing seller’ policy has proved to be an impediment to getting land; this should be done smoothly, avoiding the same situation as Zimbabwe experienced.

- As it is a political activity, let all political parties, civic organizations, traditional leaders, and NGOs be involved, to avoid repeating what President Mugabe and his government are accused of, giving untrained veterans and his associates close to his government the land without proper structures in place.

- It has to be done within legal framework. All the legal processes should be exhausted so that individual rights are upheld and nobody should be victimized in any way.

- There should be principles followed by those granted the power to expropriate and those principles should be in line with the upliftment and honor of the country’s constitution, as everybody has the right to land.

- Government should ensure the expropriated land is in use by those who would be the new owners.
Chapter 5. Conclusion

Drawing conclusions from the above discussion, it is clear that the actual land redistribution fell short of the target by a considerable margin.

Despite that the government has devoted considerable energy and expenditure to the process of land redistribution, the land redistribution programme is experiencing several challenges which have led to some farmers operating sub-optimally or even being abandoned. Lack of post-settlement support to beneficiaries, inadequate proper training and development of the farmers, lack of monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the beneficiaries, and a lack of information with regard to land redistribution programme in rural areas have contributed to the failure of this programme.

Land redistribution has failed to live up to the standard outlined in the RDP, that is poverty alleviation, and redistribution of land to the landless. The rural poor are still locked in poverty and unemployment.

It is clear that even if government’s current land reform package were well resourced and speedily implemented, it would not fundamentally transform the basic social and economic structures that lock the poor majority of rural people into a life of poverty, marginalisation, serfdom and insecurity. Land reform in South Africa has been effectively subordinated to an economic development model that is not intended to transform land and agriculture in accordance with ethical priorities. Under enormous pressure from powerful economic interests and ideologies - globally and within the country - the real
priorities of land and agricultural reform are being directed away from the interests of the poor.
13. Bibliography


APPENDIX 1: Household Questionnaire

- How many people living in the family?
  This question seeks to identify the economic position of the house.
  ........................................................................................................................................
  ........................................................................................................................................

- What are they doing for a living (employment related question)
  Again this question determines the socio economic position of the family.
  ........................................................................................................................................
  ........................................................................................................................................
  ........................................................................................................................................
  ........................................................................................................................................

- If not any employed, what is the source of income in the family?
  Response to this question would help in understanding their survival without any income.
  ........................................................................................................................................
  ........................................................................................................................................
  ........................................................................................................................................
  ........................................................................................................................................

- What is the level of level of education in the family?
  This is important as the researcher is of the opinion that illiterate, and poor of the poorest are left out of the land redistribution programme.
  ........................................................................................................................................
  ........................................................................................................................................
  ........................................................................................................................................
  ........................................................................................................................................
APPENDIX 2: Questionnaire for Traditional leaders

- Are you aware of land redistribution programmes?
  This question seeks to determine the knowledge and how well informed about the programme.

- What is your role in educating your residents about the programme?

- Do you disseminate information with regard to land redistribution?
  This question seeks to determine the understanding of the importance of this programme.

- Has the programme benefitted the rural residents in your area?
  This question explores the impact of land redistribution programmes.
• If yes from the above question, how?

**APPENDIX 3: Questionnaire for Farmers**

• How long have you been in farming industry?
  This question determines the sustainability of emerging farmers in the area of Nkonkobe.
  ................................................................................................................
  ..........................................................................................................

• What are your experiences in farming?
  Aim of the question is to determine the challenges faced by the emerging farmers.
  ................................................................................................................
  .............................................................................................................

• Are your families also involved in farming?
  This question determines the passion in farming from the younger children of the family.
  .............................................................................................................

• Is there any kind of income in the family except for the one you generate in farming?
  This question seeks to identify the socio economic position of the family
  ................................................................................................................
  .............................................................................................................

• Level of education in the family, (husband, wife, and children)
  -the question emanates from the fact that illiterate people being left out of the programme, and also the poverty levels.
APPENDIX 4: Beneficiaries

- What kind of post-settlement support do you get from DLA?
  -the researcher wishes to question the post-settlement support services being provided to the beneficiaries.

- Do you have any other income?

- Are there any limiting factors to commercial expansion of your farm?

- Do you have enough land for agricultural purposes?
**APPENDIX 5. Questionnaire for farm workers**

- How long have you been employed in this farm?

............................................................................................................................
............................................................................................................................

- How many family members depended on your income?
  This question seeks to determine the economic position of the worker.

............................................................................................................................
............................................................................................................................

- Is there any other source of income in your families?
  -these questions will help to determine the economic position of the people of Nkonkobe.

............................................................................................................................

- How well informed are you about the land redistribution?

............................................................................................................................

- Level of education would again be crucial in determining the level of poverty in the area of Nkonkobe, illiterate being left out of the programme in terms of who benefits.

............................................................................................................................

- How much is your current monthly total income? Indicate in the table below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salary Range</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500-1000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000-1500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500-2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-This question the researcher investigates the socio-economic position of the workers.
APPENDIX 6: Questionnaire for Women

- How well informed are you on the subject of the land redistribution programme?
  - this question investigates their input on the programme.

- Do you benefit from the land reform programme?
  - this question determines who benefits from the programme

- Level of education.
  - This question determines the level of poverty.

- How is the exclusion of women from access to land impacts on women as right now the permission to occupy certificates have generally been allocated to male households?

- Which statement best describe your degree of participation in the programme?
  - Response to this question would help to identify the contribution of women in the programme.
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fully involved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partially involved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not involved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- If involved in the programme, how has your involvement brought any improvement in your life?