



Land Digest 1 **January 2016**

In the ANC's January 8 statement, President Jacob Zuma raised the question of Land Reform. He spoke not just of dispossession but also of "theft", language that has become synonymous with the EFF, and which may signal a shift by the governing party towards the more radical EFF positions on land. He also noted that "the return of land must enable an increase in food productivity".

The one issue that looks to become a huge stumbling block to land reform is the lack of money to pay for it, and not just for future claims and projects, but also for the backlog of past claims. Other competing interests are not making things any easier: fees must fall; electricity infrastructure; housing; water infrastructure; and so on. In addition, funding for land reform has fallen for the fifth consecutive year.

On the positive side, a resolution of problems of corruption, especially in the KZN Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, might help to redirect moneys towards claimants.

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The following links provide more information and analysis on these aspects of the land reform question:

- <http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?id=11874>
- <http://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/zuma-calls-for-land-reforms-1.1968692>
- <http://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/no-money-for-zumas-land-plans-1.1804670>
- <http://www.kwanalu.co.za/lack-of-funding-for-land-claims/>
- <http://www.plaas.org.za/blog/rising-rhetoric-shrinking-budgets-land-reform>
- <http://www.plaas.org.za/blog/%E2%80%98political-will%E2%80%99-not-%E2%80%98corruption-will%E2%80%99-can-accelerate-land-reform-benefit-south-africa%E2%80%99s>