



Social Surveys
Institute



PRESS RELEASE

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BIG DEBATE POLL SAYS SOUTH AFRICANS WANT LAND NATIONALISED

Emotions ran high during Sunday's Season 10 premiere of the Big Debate, with heated discussion around the topic of land reform in South Africa. An electronic poll before and during the live studio broadcast showcased a strong preference for the nationalisation of land.

For the first time, viewers of the Big Debate, and followers of the show on various social media platforms, could vote on what is set to be a key issue for the upcoming national elections. In addition to Facebook and Twitter, participants could vote via a free USSD sms service and the Khetha! App (www.khetha.org.za) which engages young people in conversations on current issues. While not nationally representative, the poll is indicative of views by a large national audience, across demographic and class lines.

Results from the 13,324 voters showed a decided inclination towards nationalised expropriation, the favoured option of the EFF, while the ANC and DA policy positions (respectively summarised as 'protect the economy' and 'willing buyer willing seller') received considerably less support.

61% of respondents feel that land expropriation without compensation is good for South Africa, whereas 23% said no and 16% believe that it's not that simple. On the question of which land reform path to take, a massive two thirds (66%) of those polled want land to be nationalised immediately, while just over a quarter (25%) believe it should be done carefully, without harming the economy. Less than one in ten (9%) support the willing buyer willing seller model.

The two hour duration of the show was scarcely enough to underline the complex, multi-layered and divisive nature of the land debate. In the words of Prof Ruth Hall from the University of the Western Cape, the debate clearly demonstrates that "there is not one land question in South Africa ... people see different elements of it.... Our existing land dispensation is illegitimate in the eyes of most South Africans."

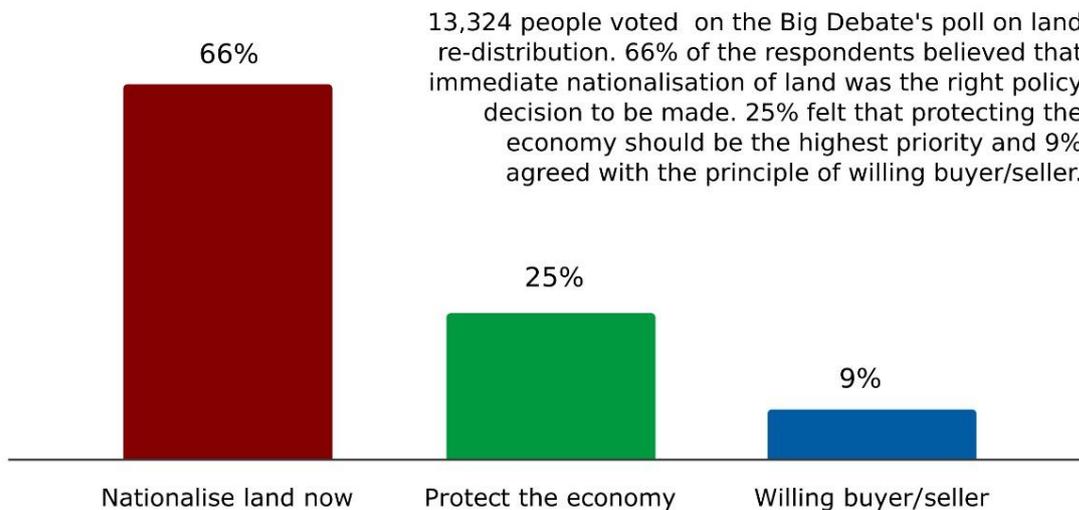
The Big Debate poll was conducted by Grassroot, Social Surveys Institute and OpenUp.

Big Debate is broadcast on SABC2 and SABC News Channel 404 with financial support from Luminate, Open Society Foundation and Ford Foundation.

This week's episode is online at www.bigdebate.live/watch

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Land redistribution: which plan is best?



Have your say at khetha.org.za

Source: Big Debate 10 March 2019. Votes on Twitter, USSD and Khetha.
This sample is not representative but reflects the views of viewers of the Big Debate.
Nevertheless, the results provide an interesting 'dipstick' measurement of South Africans' views on the land debate.

