

Propositions

Attached to the thesis

Finding the Middle Ground: Land Tenure Reform and Customary Claims Negotiability in Rural Ghana

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1. The monetization of hitherto 'almost free' land has without doubt disenfranchised the 'ordinary poor farmers' from control of their ancestral lands. (from thesis)
2. The contestations and competition among various interests groups and individuals over local land claims is the result of the on-going transformation in the rural land sector in Ghana. (from thesis)
3. Land in a rural community does not only mean a place where rural people migrate from but also one that migrants may return to and begin to farm. (from thesis)
4. Ignoring the local customary land tenure system in tenure reforms will undermine the formalization initiatives of the state. (from thesis)
5. Both local customary tenure practices and state formalization processes are inequitable, insecure and are constantly changing. (from thesis)
6. Land reform policies should be flexible and gradual taking into consideration the rules pertaining to local land access and tenure arrangements in rural communities.
7. Land tenure policy should be considered as a long term project and therefore requiring a thorough consultation and participation by local people.
8. A major challenge of policy makers in Africa is whether land access and tenure should be considered a private and individualized or a community's property.
9. Viewing informal and formal activity in land tenure systems as a dichotomy, and defining informality as insecure and formality as secure, frustrates every intention to reform local land tenure.
10. An ideal land tenure reform is one that focuses on state-led registration of local customary land while allowing for local variations and inputs from the local community.
11. The land challenge can be resolved only when policy makers decide to scratch where the people itch.