

City Press

State to blame for land problem: Hanekom

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The government is to blame for the perceived failure of the willing buyer, willing seller land reform policy, according to Deputy Science and Technology Minister Derek Hanekom.

Hanekom, the former minister of agriculture and land affairs, was speaking at a Grain SA event in Bothaville in the Free State.

He said the government did not understand the land reform process, Sake24 reported.

Hanekom said the government should be blamed if it paid more for the land than what it was worth.

“If you sell your land, you sell it for the highest price,” he was quoted in Afrikaans as saying. “And if the government pays more than what it is worth, then the blame must be laid at the government’s door.” Hanekom assured the about 500 farmers that Zimbabwe-like land grabs would not happen in South Africa.

The governing ANC released policy discussion documents earlier this week. It said, among others, that the current willing buyer, willing seller policy was distorting prices and recommended that a land management commission be established to develop guidelines and land management.

It proposed a land valuer general to help bring consistency to land values and determine financial compensation in cases of land expropriation.

- SAPA