

Master's Thesis Review

Author: Sello Floyed Sekgobela

**Title: An analysis of the evolution of land reform programme in Limpopo province, South Africa:
Successes and failures**

The master's thesis presented by **Sello Floyed Sekgobela** deals with an issue of land reform programme evolution in South Africa. The author defines four objectives of his study (p.40); these research objectives are answered and discussed at the end of the thesis (pp. 91-92). The author had the unique opportunity to elaborate the topic of land reforms in South Africa due to the fact that he originated from the region. This might led to a more ambitious approach to research methods of data collecting (e.g. use of interviews / correspondence with policymakers and various stakeholders) than is actually employed in the thesis. As a result, the thesis is based on previously published sources.

This alone would not be the weakest aspect of the thesis. More critical is the way the author works with these sources. The system of references (sources in the text are not included in Bibliography and vice versa) together with the copying (copying without using references) is a main deficiency of the thesis. The supervisor had several meetings with the author where basic principles of academic work were mentioned repeatedly; moreover the supervisor provided a feedback through corrections of interim versions of the thesis. In the initial stage, some of the parts of the work could be labelled as plagiarism according to the standards of Palacky University, nevertheless the quality slowly improved and the worst practices have been eliminated. Yet, it is regrettable that the author was not able to increase the quality of his thesis even more to reach at least an average standard of an academic text.

Despite this criticism the thesis presents interesting information about the development of land reforms in the region of South Africa – we can assume that the topic will be increasingly relevant due to the continuing pressure on available land. I hope that the author will take lessons from his effort and in the future will follow all the standards of academic and/or professional work with utmost care.

Despite the above mentioned deficiencies the master's thesis presented here is acceptable and I recommend it for defence and I propose Grade E.

Olomouc, 20. 1. 2017

Zdeněk Opršal