

Editorial

LAND REFORM PANIC UNNECESSARY

There is no doubt that there is great concern about land reforms amongst ordinary South Africans and especially property owners and buyers. At the same time, there is a huge amount of noise in the media and public discourse around this, often sending mixed messages.

In light of this, the clarity provided by President Ramaphosa in various media reports and in a recent parliamentary sitting, that there will be no wide-scale land grabs of any kind is welcomed. He made it clear that there will be no nationalisation and that property rights will be protected, and that illegal land grabs will not be tolerated. He again reiterated that expropriation will be done in a planned manner in pursuance of economic growth. This was also again echoed in the very important recent meeting between him and UK Prime Minister, Theresa May and during his visit to China.

There is no need for consumers to fear that their houses will be taken, or that it is pointless to invest in property. In fact, far from it. The president has been very clear that SA has learnt from the experiences of other countries (including Zimbabwe), in terms of what has worked and what has not, and will not make the same mistakes. He has also given the assurance that the governing party does not intend to erode property rights, but rather to ensure that the property rights of all South Africans are strengthened. It should be noted that ratings agencies and other international commentators including the IMF have all urged clarity on land reform which is seen as a vital step to future prosperity and stability. Following President Donald Trump's tweet regarding land expropriation, buyers and investors are urged to be wary of the noise, misinterpretation and misinformation. This is causing unwarranted and unnecessary fear and concerns among consumers about whether they should be investing in property when in fact, it is an excellent time to buy.

There has been no indication that expropriation will affect ordinary residential property. Ramaphosa is on record as stating that the intention is to unlock the economic potential by looking at unused land, derelict buildings, purely speculative land holdings, or circumstances where occupiers have strong historical rights and title holders do not occupy or use their land, such as labour tenancy, informal settlements and abandoned inner-city buildings. While agricultural land is a stated target for expropriation, recent developments, pledges of co-operation and undertakings following high level meetings with various agricultural bodies and stakeholders are welcomed.

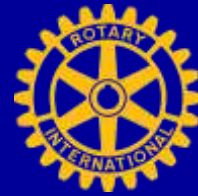
South Africans and foreigners should rest assured that SA's interested parties are keeping an eye on developments and are setting up high level meetings and making representations as needed, all in the interest of the country, the people and property. This includes the Banking Association of South Africa (BASA) and its managing director, Cas Coovadia, is on record confirming that the banks continue granting property loans including in the agricultural sector and that the banking sector is also committed to land reform.

We need to be reminded that SA is in a much stronger position than what Zimbabwe was. We have a strong constitution and Chapter Nine institutions and civil rights organisations. SA is also a party to international treaties which require the protection of property rights and we should take encouragement from all of these factors.

WYNPRESS

The Rotary Club of

Wynberg



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October in Rotary

Economic and Community
Development month

**Wynberg Rotary meet every Thursday,
6 for 6.30pm,
Palm House, Wynberg.**

For more information about our club, like us
on Facebook or visit our website:

Wynbergrotary.org.za



BE THE INSPIRATION

While the economic and political challenges remain an obstacle for the property market, it is important to remember that there is still plenty of activity. Regardless of the state of the economy and market, there will always be people who need to buy and sell for a range of reasons. Deeds office data shows that thousands of sales transactions are still concluded each month and it is important to filter out the negative noise.

The important take-out is that while there are challenges, there are opportunities aplenty. Timing the market is impossible, so it is best to work with what we know. There is very little to indicate that there will be any dramatic upward shift in the economy and property market this year, but for as long as people need a roof over their heads, there will be buyers, and with that, opportunities to sell. Buyers should not waste time waiting for a better time to buy.

Submitted by Graham Todd

Minutes: 11th October 2018

Compiled by Stephanie Thomas

Attendance	9 members and 1 Honorary member present Guests: Belinda Speed (Guest Speaker), Armien White, James Edwards, Travis van Rensburg, Megan Thorburn
From the chair of President Biffy	Biffy welcomed the small gathering, and reminded us: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To vote on the Club's bylaws by 18 October • DG's visit on 1 November • RC Constantia's Wine Festival on 2 November • Ken and Bertie are now on the mend • Biffy and Edith together visited Don this week
Fellowship	None on record for the following week
Slots	Justin For 'Kids' Day Out', 21 children, mainly from Khayelitsha were taken first to the Scratch Patch at Simonstown, then as it was a hot day, to the beach at Seaforth. A highly successful day out, but shortage of safe transport was a problem, which the Board needs to address prior to another similar outing.
Members' Moments	Justin: Ruth's contract has been renewed for next year
Guest Speaker	Forensic Scientist Belinda Speed described in some disturbing detail her practical experience with identification of cadavers from forensic evidence. This hands-on (!) experience will help secure her PhD at UCT. She has a background in genetics and biological anthropology. In a lighter vein she rescues rabbits! Stacy introduced and thanked our most entertaining speaker.
Swindle	Toddy, String and the R300 kitty were nowhere to be found.....
President's Pearls	Search for the beauty in everything; because it's there if you look hard enough.

Duty Roster	October		November	
	18	25	1	8
Sergeant	Todd	Overbosch	Club Meeting Visit by DG Schreiber	SOCIAL: CLUB BRAAI
Wynpress Editorial	Van Niekerk S	Barnard	Bayes	
Wynpress Minutes	Maunder	Thomas	Van Niekerk	
Door Duty	Cleveland	Jackson	Howard	
Grace	Bayes	Schreiber	Smith	
Loyal Toast	Munday	Maunder	Jackson	
International Toast	O'Driscoll	Schonegevel J	Murphy	
Speaker Intro and Thanks	Gowdy	Danckwerts	N/A	
Entertainment for the month	Howard, Maunder, Edwards, O'Driscoll, Overbosch			

Dates To Diarise

18 October	Youth Evening – RYLA feedback
24 October	World Polio Day
25 October	Beryl Saunders, a polio survivor will talk about her experiences
1 November	DG Casper's visit to the Club
2 November (Friday)	RC Constantia Wine Fest at Schoenstatt Centre, Constantia. R200pp on Webtickets
8 November	Club Braai at Bruce and Marlene's home. Details to follow
15 November	Former SA cricketer Vince van der Bijl will tell us about working with young people in disadvantaged communities.
22 November	Hosting our guests from Haugaland College
23 November (Friday)	Opening night of Uncle Paul's Christmas Parties
24 November (Saturday)	Newland RC 25 th Anniversary. 7pm at Kelvin Grove
29 November	Uncle Paul's with DG Casper in attendance



On the 99th anniversary of the end of World War I, more than 1,200 people gathered in Geneva, Switzerland, for Rotary Day at the United Nations.

Representing 87 countries, they convened on Saturday, 11 November, at the Palais des Nations, originally the home of the League of Nations, and dedicated themselves to the theme introduced by Rotary President Ian H. S. Riseley: “Peace: Making a Difference.”

“The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace have always been among Rotary’s primary goals,” said Riseley. “It is past time for all of us to recognize the potential of all of our Rotary service to build peace, and approach that service with peacebuilding in mind.”

For the first time in its 13-year history, Rotary Day at the UN was held outside of New York.

Rotary Day concluded Geneva Peace Week, during which John Hewko, general secretary of Rotary International, noted the “close and longstanding ties between Rotary and the UN in (their) mutual pursuit of peace and international understanding.”

Tailpiece

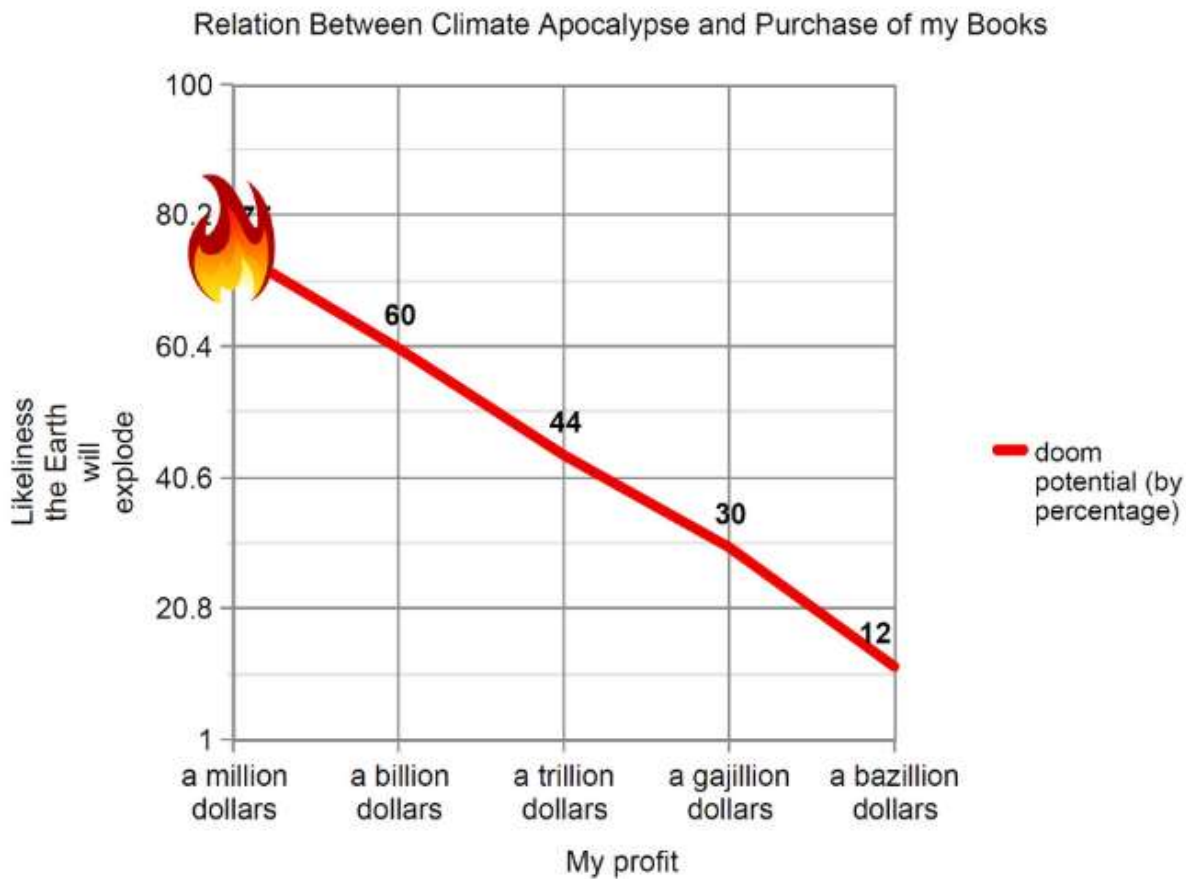
Al Gore Predicts Massive Apocalypse If Billions Are Not Spent On His Books, Films

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Al Gore spoke at the Global Action Climate Summit in San Francisco on Sunday and he didn't parse words. "This world is headed for a global catastrophe of apocalyptic proportions if everyone doesn't drop all other priorities and redirect all spending toward buying my books and seeing my movies," Gore said.

"I am not messing around," he added. "I am super serious."

Gore went on to present numerous charts and graphs showing a direct correlation between the destruction of the Earth and his profit margins.

"Science deniers can scoff all they want," he said while aiming a laser pointer at a chart showing his prediction that the Earth will end within five years if his new book does not make the top of the New York Times Bestseller List. "And even that could be too little too late," Gore said. "To really guarantee that this environmental apocalypse doesn't happen, my books need to outsell the Bible."



Several scientists on the panel agreed wholeheartedly with Gore's assessment. "The evidence is irrefutable," said Dr. Sufjan Swami of Johns Hopkins University. "To not buy Al's books and movies at a time like this is tantamount to treason." Various experts on the panel all agreed that it was time for all countries and communities to come together and commit all of their resources to the purchase of Al Gore's books and movies.

At publishing time, sources had confirmed that Gore then switched to simulated footage of people melting in a massive inferno for buying the latest Stephen King or James Patterson novel instead of his books.