

in session



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*Freedom Month
Edition*

*Following up on our
commitments:
Making your future
work better*

Freedom Day – we must be free from poverty, unemployment, racism & sexism

The Presiding Officers (POs) of Parliament, the Speaker of the National Assembly (NA) Ms Thandi Modise and the Chairperson of the National Council of Province (NCOP) Mr Amos Masondo, joined South Africans in commemorating Freedom Day in April.



Ms Thandi Modise, Speaker of the NA & Mr Amos Masondo, NCOP Chairperson

On 27 April in 1994, 27 years ago, millions of South Africans cast their votes in the first democratic elections as equals to select the government of their choice. This day marks the liberation of South Africa and its people from apartheid and white minority domination.

Blood had been shed, people suffered, too many lives were lost under the cruel system of apartheid. The call by the people for freedom could not be denied any more. 27 April is a day that brought hope and boundless possibilities, as people woke up on that day to cast their votes and make the cross that would change their lives.

This year's Freedom Day comes when South Africa is still faced with the Covid-19 pandemic that has put South Africans under siege. The pandemic has exacerbated and deepened unemployment and poverty. Furthermore, the tide of corruption and theft of government resources flows

faster than ever before.

Parliament will continuously sharpen its constitutional oversight role in fighting pervasive corruption to ensure that public resources reach the people, particularly the poorest of the poor, and not a few unscrupulous individuals. If South Africans are to say "we are free", this must include freedom from poverty, unemployment, racism, sexism and other challenges.

The theme for the 6th Parliament is "Following up on our commitments to the people". As a people's Parliament, it is its responsibility to follow up on the promises made to the people in order to realise a truly free and democratic South Africa. Our task is to ensure that laws passed by Parliament are aligned with the vision of the Constitution and to continue holding the executive accountable for its promise to restore dignity to all the people of this country.

Freedom and security of the person, freedom of religion, belief and opinion, freedom of expression, and freedom of association are some of the rights enshrined in our Constitution in the Bill of Rights. Twenty-seven years into democracy, South Africa and its constitutional institutions continue to ensure the protection of these rights.

"Parliament will continue to ensure the restoration of dignity to all South Africans through its legislative processes, especially vulnerable groups, women and children. The passing of the Gender-Based Violence Bills and the recent Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act Amendment Bill (Ultra) are among the interventions Parliament is making to restore the people's dignity and undo the past injustices," said the POs.

The Ultra Bill seeks to restore the dignity of women to be

independent property owners without male representation and allows former residents of apartheid homelands to benefit equally, like all South Africans, from land ownership conversions.

On this day, through the instruments at our disposal under the Constitution,

Parliament commits to continue making South Africa a better country to live in for all. Freedom was attained through bloodshed and great sacrifices, and we must make it count for all South Africans. Our task is to ensure that all our people enjoy their freedom with dignity. 🇿🇦



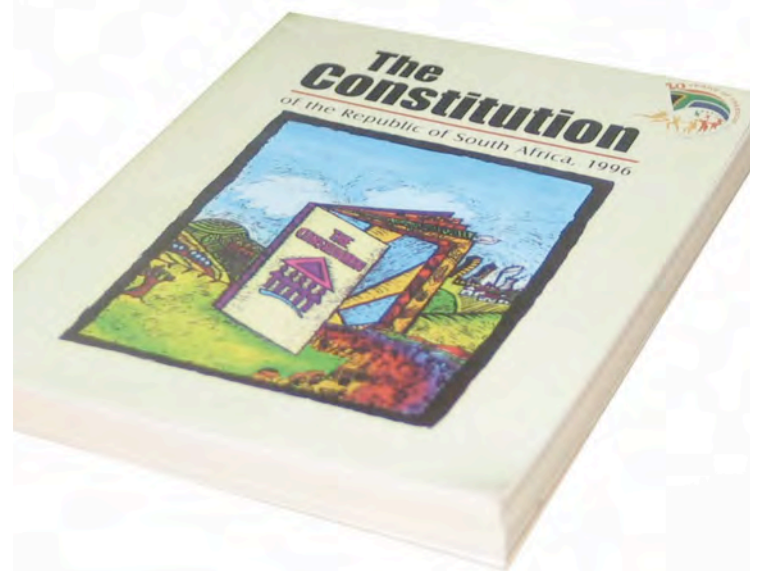
Mr Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa



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"NEVER, NEVER AND NEVER AGAIN SHALL IT BE THAT THIS BEAUTIFUL LAND WILL AGAIN EXPERIENCE THE OPPRESSION OF ONE BY ANOTHER."

- Mr Nelson Mandela



The Constitutional Court of South Africa

Limpopo residents call on MPs to accelerate amendment of Expropriation Bill

Thulamane Local Municipality residents in Limpopo's Thohoyandou District urged the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure to accelerate the process to amend the Expropriation Bill [B23-2020]. The committee began public hearings on the Bill recently in the municipality, writes Manelisi Ntsodo.



The main objective of the Bill is to provide for the expropriation of property for a public purpose or in the public interest, and provide for certain instances where expropriation with nil compensation may be appropriate in the public interest. Traditional leaders and representatives from various civic and political organisations, churches and labour unions spoke with one voice in calling upon the committee to immediately deliberate on discrepancies and make amendments to the Bill.

The Chairperson of the committee, Ms Nolitha Ntobongwana, clarified a misunderstanding when participants in the public hearing repeatedly confused the purpose of the hearings with that of the Ad Hoc Committee to Initiate and Introduce Legislation Amending Section 25 of the Constitution. She said: "We want to affirm our difference here. We are the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure and the public hearings are a platform

created for you to express your views on how to amend the existing Expropriation Act 63 of 1975 in order to provide a common framework in line with the Constitution."

In the Mopani Region in Tzaneen, representatives of political parties and other organisations emphasised the urgency of the implementation of the expropriation legislation. The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) participants appealed to the committee not to waste more time by embarking on the process of public hearings for this Bill, as there is nothing new to contribute.

Members of the EFF argued that, instead of public hearings relating to the amendment of the Bill, Parliament must embark on a nationwide public awareness programme that Section 25 of the Constitution has been amended. Thereafter, Parliament must deal with the Land Redistribution Bill, the Land Tenure Bill and the Expropriation Act.

Agri Letaba, a farmer's

association in the Limpopo province's Greater Letaba region, made a contribution in the hearings. It believes that expropriation or compulsory acquisition of land has been used internationally for decades and said it supports the principle of equality.

Agri Letaba believes current land owners should not be required to bear a disproportionate burden for the need for land reform in the public interest. It added that its main concern with the Bill is that the proposed definition limits the concept to instances where the state acquires rights in property and excludes statutory limitations that undermine the economic utilisation of property or dismantle its content.

The danger of such definition, it argued, is that the government can expropriate any land at any time without compensation. This will severely limit property rights, Agri Letaba said, and the focus should be on the loss that the owner suffers, not on acquisition by state organs.

The overwhelming majority of participants supported the Bill in its current form, particularly clause 12 (c), which allows for expropriation without compensation that is just and equitable in terms of the Constitution and in the public interest, for property and land earmarked for socio-economic reform and redistribution.

Participants also support that the expropriating authority is the state, since this Bill is about public interest and public purpose. Therefore,

it must determine those instances where compensation may be paid (clause 12 (a)) and where no compensation will be paid (clause 12 (c)). Also, that this is a function of the government, not the courts, and if anyone has a grievance, they have the right to approach the courts and the courts cannot be the ones to make determinations of compensation or no compensation.

In the Modimolle Local Municipality, commercial farmers' associations expressed concern about amendments to the Expropriations Bill. Ms Deidre Carter, the Chief Executive Officer of Agri Limpopo, informed the committee that the federation comprises 410 commercial farming operations in the Limpopo province, providing 90 000 jobs for the province. Commercial agriculture in Limpopo plays a strategic role as the second largest contribution to food security in the country, she pointed out, providing local, provincial and national economic growth, development and export earnings.

Although Agri Limpopo recognises the committee's work to replace the current Expropriation Bill, the federation's viewpoint is that it cannot support the inclusion of the possibility of nil compensation. Therefore, Agri Limpopo does not support the inclusion of clauses 12 (3) and 12 (4) in the latest version of the Bill, which provide for nil compensation.

In addition, the federation is



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OUR IDEALS

Vision
An activist and responsive people's Parliament that improves the quality of life of South Africans and ensures enduring equality in our society.

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enhancing public involvement;
deepening engagement in international fora;
strengthening cooperative government;
strengthening legislative capacity.

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against the current definition of “public interest” in the Bill. Agri Limpopo believes the definition is too broad and gives too much discretion to government officials to decide what is in the public interest. They asked Parliament not to attempt to define the term in Section 25 of the Constitution, except by re-stating what is already contained in the Constitution. Agri Limpopo believes that it is for the courts, not Parliament, to interpret the term as used in the Constitution. Also, Agri Limpopo does not support the definition of “public purpose” in the Bill, as it perceives it as incomplete, with the need for a clear regulation of the public purpose requirement in legislation to ensure conformity with Section 25(2) of the Constitution.

In its presentation, the Waterberg Business Chamber argued that the primary motive behind the concept of expropriation without compensation relates to the unfair distribution of land ownership in South Africa. However, it maintained

that in many countries when social challenges are identified, practical solutions are first considered and policy frameworks are then formulated to introduce solutions to address such challenges.

Thereafter, the legislation is enacted to give effect to the proposed solutions. According to the chamber, the South African government has been unable to provide realistic and practical solutions within the framework of existing legislation, and continues to introduce more amendments, creating unrealistic expectations without practical solutions of any substance. The Waterberg Business Chamber does not support the current form of the Expropriation Bill, the committee heard.

The Limpopo province’s Capricorn District Municipality’s House of Traditional Leaders told the committee that they demand consultation and empowerment from Parliament on the Expropriations Bill. 🇿🇦

Mpumalanga communities make submissions on Expropriation Bill

The Mpumalanga province was the second province, after Limpopo, to be visited by the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure for public hearings on the Expropriation Bill, reports Sakhile Mokoena.



The committee met with the communities of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality in the province’s Ehlanzeni District and listened to submissions from different stakeholders, including members of political parties, traditional leaders, organised labour, farmers and civic organisations, among others. There were mixed feelings from community members, with some supporting the draft legislation, while others felt that processing the Expropriation Bill should be put on hold until Parliament has concluded amending Section 25 of the Constitution to allow for expropriation of land without compensation. In the Mbombela Local Municipality, representatives of political parties, community-based organisations, farmers and representatives from traditional councils were among the participants who expressed different views on the Bill.

Although the Bill received some opposition and support in Mbombela, there were participants who expressed concern over Chapter 5 of

the draft legislation, which mentions compensation for expropriation, calling for that part to be removed from the Bill. There were also participants who told the committee that the Bill was not explicit in its definition of the concept of “public purpose and public interest”. The aim of the Expropriation Bill is to repeal the existing Expropriation Act of 1975 to provide a common framework in line with the Constitution to guide the processes and procedures for the expropriation of property for a public purpose and in the public interest, and to provide for certain instances where expropriation with nil compensation may be appropriate in the public interest.

The residents of the Gert Sibande District Municipality used the opportunity of the public hearings to inform the committee about human rights abuses taking place on farms in the area. The committee told the residents that it will refer allegations of human rights abuses against farm dwellers to the relevant committees in Parliament.

Claims of ill-treatment of farm dwellers and farm workers dominated the committee’s public hearings on the Expropriation Bill recently in Ermelo. Expressing their support of the Bill, farm dwellers told the committee about their poor living conditions on the farms. They added that they hoped the legislation will rescue them from abuse by ruthless land owners.

Committee Chairperson Ms Nolitha Ntobongwana said all views and submissions that did not belong to the committee will be referred to the relevant committees in Parliament.

The public hearings were held under strict Covid-19 guidelines and regulations. 🇿🇦



STRICT COVID-19 REGULATIONS: Public participation



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Expropriation Bill will provide land to build churches in the North West

At public hearings on the Expropriation Bill held by the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure, the people of the Ruth Segomotso Mompoti District Municipality in the North West Province said that the Bill will ensure access to land for churches, reports Malatswa Molepo.

With access to land, citizens in the district believe churches can play a critical role in combating the socio-economic ills that are afflicting the communities in the district and in South Africa in general. These views were expressed during the committee's first leg of public hearings on the Expropriation Bill [B23-2020] in the North West in the Christiana town hall. The committee was in the province as part of its countrywide public hearings to hear South African's views on the Bill.

In supporting the Bill, Bishop Dr Josh Malebye emphasised that the lack of land deprived the Church. In his view, the Church has the Bible as its tool to deal with socio-economic challenges, such as substance abuse and poverty. "The expropriation of land that was enshrined in a colonial constitution in 1913 deprived black people, as well as the black Church at large. As we speak, it must be considered that there is Church land which is almost like the Ingonyama Trust. Traditional churches don't have land. If churches have land, they can build multi-purpose centres that can provide the necessary support in dealing with social ills facing the country," Dr Malebye said.

There was also a strong view that expropriation of land should not be for agricultural and business purposes only. Rather, it should be

understood in a broader context of multidimensional developmental purposes. The overwhelming view in Christiana was that the community needs land for various purposes and the implementation of the legislation on expropriation must take place urgently.

In Mahikeng and Rustenburg, the portfolio committee on Public Works heard that the Bill is a necessary tool to expedite the stalled land reform process and will ensure greater access to land by the landless majority of South Africans. The residents also told the committee that there are large tracts of unused land in the province that could be used productively through the Expropriation Bill. Furthermore, the money intended for compensation as a result of expropriation of the land should rather be channelled towards the capacitation, empowerment and development of small-scale businesses.

Although the residents agreed on the expropriation of the land, there was disagreement regarding its custodianship. Traditional leaders argued that the custodianship of the land belongs to them on behalf of their people. There was a counter view, however, that the state is a correct custodian of the land for the people.

There was also a strong view in the province that the current process to repeal the

Expropriation Act of 1975 is unjustified and diminishes the overarching process to amend Section 25 of the Constitution. The residents told the committee that the lack of access to land for economic activities is hindering skills development and inhibiting entrepreneurial spirit, among young black people in particular.

The majority of participants called upon the committee to ensure that the Bill becomes law and its implementation fast-tracked, given the very long history exclusion of the black majority from their land by the brutal systems of colonialism and apartheid.

There were participants who expressed their pessimism about access to land, arguing that the expropriation of land remains a pipe dream. They told the committee that many black South Africans are restricted at subsistence and small-scale farming levels, as they don't have access to land for large-scale and commercial farming purposes.

Although the Bill received overwhelming support at all the hearings, some were against it. The arguments highlighted the far-reaching negative impact of the Bill on, among other things, home ownership, food security, foreign direct investment and economic stability. Furthermore, the Bill will entrench a process of expropriation without judicial

oversight the naysayers said. They also highlighted the unclear definition of terms such as "public interest" and "property" as reasons for their opposition of the Bill. In addition, the state is attempting to create life-long tenants out of South Africans, they claimed.

The committee also heard a range of challenges faced by the people where public hearings have taken place in the province. Those challenges included the non-delivery of services to the people, the slow pace of land reform, the lack of agricultural support especially to rural communities, the lack of delivery of houses, especially to deserving people, and the deepening poverty and unemployment.

The committee was concerned by the ongoing mistreatment of farm workers, which was highlighted by participants during the hearings. "The integrity of all employees across all sectors of the

economy must be respected at all times, and their subjection to unfathomable and severe treatment by their employers is unacceptable and condemned by the committee in the strongest terms," the portfolio committee Chairperson Ms Nolitha Ntobongwana said.

"While this process is intended to receive public comments in relation to the Bill," Ms Ntobongwana continued, "we cannot close our ears to the concerns expressed by the people. As a listening Parliament, we have committed to taking those challenges to the relevant committees in Parliament to ensure that those committees follow and attend to those matters."

The committee also expressed its appreciation for the patience and orderly conduct displayed by the residents of North West as it tried to enforce adherence to the Adjusted Level 1 Covid-19 regulations. 🇿🇦



STRICT COVID-19 REGULATIONS – Public participation.

Gauteng residents believe Expropriation Bill will reduce poverty and create economic opportunities

Gauteng residents called on the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure's to expedite the parliamentary process to finalise and implement the Expropriation Bill, writes Brent Simons.



During the first leg of the Portfolio Committee's public hearings in the Province, Tshwane residents said that they want the Bill to be fair and to resolve the issue of land ownership. Traditional leaders, political party representatives and members of the public in the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipal area expressed their full support for the parliamentary process to finalise the Bill.

The Bill, they said, will put the land back into the hands of its rightful owners. Traditional leaders who spoke at the public hearings yesterday also expressed their unconditional support for the Bill. They called on Parliament to speedily conclude the current process and to approve the Bill.

Citizens who addressed the committee at the Bronkhorstspruit Sports complex concurred that their demand for the return of the land must not be seen as corrupt or criminal, but as a constitutional right for each and every South African citizen to lawfully own land. They said the current parliamentary-driven process must be aimed at democratically and legally resolving the issue of land ownership.

Although participants differed on the implementation of the Bill, they thanked Parliament for the process it has embarked upon. The participants called on the committee to ensure greater consultation and involvement of ordinary citizens in the expropriation process and to guarantee fairness and its successful conclusion.

The residents asked the committee to also consider communal land owned by or under the curatorship of traditional leaders, which must also be returned to the people. In addition, the government must also deal with tribal authorities claiming ownership instead of looking after the land on behalf of the people.

Some residents asked for clarity on references to "expropriation of property" in the introductory clause of the Bill. They said the issue of land owned by former citizens no longer staying in South Africa, including land owned by foreigners, must be dealt with. Furthermore, they said the government must finalise land claims already submitted.

Committee Chairperson Ms Nolitha Ntobongwana expressed her appreciation for the important inputs received. "All views expressed will be carefully considered and influence the committee's final submission to Parliament," she said.

WEST RAND residents call for expropriation of land owned by foreigners

In Johannesburg's West Rand, residents proposed that land owned by foreigners, farms abandoned by mining companies and land forcefully confiscated by the former apartheid government must be expropriated without compensation. However, the expropriated land must only be handed to farmers or willing residents with the relevant expertise and knowledge to productively farm the land.

Some residents, who oppose the Bill, raised concerns around contradictory clauses in its current draft and the possibility of corruption following the expropriation of the land. They asked Parliament to ensure that expropriated land is not handed to people with political connections or those employed in the public service.

They also cautioned Parliament not to allow organisations or individuals to mobilise or divide South Africans along racial lines during this highly politicised and sensitive process to return the land to its rightful owners.

The majority of residents and organisations, who addressed the public hearing

held at the West Rand District Municipality's Chief Mogale Community Hall in Kagiso, requested that the expropriated land be impartially distributed for the benefit all South Africans.

West Rand youth structures raised concerns about supporting the Bill, as they do not see any projects aimed at preparing them to work the land. They asked the Members of Parliament to encourage relevant government departments and local municipalities to introduce and coordinate training programmes aimed at producing future farmers.

Together with most residents, they proposed that land owned by government departments and the municipality be made available for agricultural and industrial development projects in order to improve the performance of the local, provincial and national economy. They reminded Members of the Portfolio Committee that they "don't just want land to farm, we also want land for industrial hives to be developed, leading to jobs and a functioning economy".

Committee Chairperson, Ms. Ntobongwana, guaranteed that all issues raised would be referred to the relevant departments for them to be resolved.

ORANGE FARM says Expropriation will result in better housing for all

Orange Farm residents believe that the Covid-19 pandemic must be used to expedite the implementation of the Expropriation Bill. This, they told Members of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure at its public hearing in Finetown, can result in residents getting access to faster public healthcare, a police station, better housing, jobs and other economic opportunities.

They informed the committee that many people have

lost their houses or rented properties after losing their jobs due to the Covid-19 lockdown regulations. This would not have happened if they had owned the land or title deeds to the properties.

However, some residents cautioned that rampant corruption had to be stopped or the expropriation exercise would go the route of Zimbabwe, where politicians and senior civil servants handed out land to friends and family members.

Foreigners, according to the residents, must not be allowed to purchase land as it is the entry point to economic activity. They also informed the committee that criminal activity in their areas mostly emanated from foreign-owned businesses and properties. Therefore, they call for foreigners not to own land. South Africans must be prioritised as the rightful owners of the land.

Some residents also expressed their concern that now that we are a democracy, land would only be expropriated after lengthy legal battles, while the colonial and apartheid governments just forced people off the land.

Residents further proposed that all deserted government and municipal buildings should be expropriated and allocated for housing, businesses or community development projects. In addition, members of the South African Communist Party and Finetown residents rebuked Parliament for not giving them sufficient time to study the Bill and for failing to host workshops explaining its contents in detail. This, they proposed, would have allowed them to prepare better for the public hearing. Despite this, they gave their full support to the consultative process Parliament has embarked upon.

EKURHULENI RESIDENTS informs the committee that expropriation of land will reduce informal settlements

Ekurhuleni residents have informed the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure that the expropriation of land will effectively reduce poverty, curb the spread of diseases like Covid-19 and prevent dangerous fires in informal settlements. Residents from various communities in the Gauteng Province told the committee during its public hearings on the Expropriation Bill in Ekurhuleni that they were living in shacks prior to democracy, without any improvements made to their communities since 1994.

They said life in informal settlements is unbearable, particularly for the elderly and children. On this basis, they called on Parliament to speed up the implementation of the Expropriation Bill and to give them land for housing, farming and economic empowerment.

They further warned Parliament that people living in shacks are unable

to implement Covid-19 social distancing and sanitisation regulations due to overcrowding in all settlements throughout Gauteng. Expropriation of land is not only about returning land to its rightful owners, but also provides the state with an opportunity to expand social services such as building clinics, hospitals and police stations.

Youth structures again called on Parliament to ensure that projects are implemented to train them to work the land and become economically active through farming. If this is done correctly, the country will also be assured of future food security, they claimed. Farmers, including small-scale farmers who spoke at the public hearings, confirmed their appreciation and support for the Expropriation Bill. They proposed that a proper expropriation process be adopted. Firstly, land owned by the government must be distributed to the people while land that is expropriated must be used for developing

housing and industrial and agricultural farming projects.

Secondly, they proposed that land lying idle on property owned by big commercial farmers be expropriated and handed to small-scale farmers who are willing to expand their own farming operations. As they are charged with food security, farmers stated that they are prepared to work closely with Parliament and government to safeguard food security.

Small-scale farmers also asked Parliament through the committee to get rid of the 30-year lease contracts, as banks do not recognise these agreements when they approach them for loans. They proposed that government departments hand over title deeds making them land owners and not just small-scale farmers leasing land from the state. In turn, they will also be able to employ more workers.

Farm labourers also asked the committee to investigate

how farmers are able to forcefully evict farm workers who have worked and lived on the same farm for 50 years. They believed that the expropriation of land will return the land to them and bring an end to evictions.

Vacant privately-owned buildings, unused schools and other deserted government-owned buildings must be handed to residents for accommodation or businesses. Residents also asked Parliament to investigate how foreigners own houses in townships built and meant for South Africans.

Political party representatives also expressed their views at the public hearings. Democratic Alliance supporters raised concerns over the current property rights of South Africans against the rights given to government in the current draft of the Bill. Economic Freedom Fighters called for land to be expropriated without compensation as the land was taken criminally and forcefully from its rightful owners. They regard the Bill as an “unnecessary obstruction” to giving land back to the people.

African Christian Democratic Party members rejected the Bill in its current form, while supporters of the African National Congress supported the Bill and called for the acceleration of its adoption and implementation eventually.

Committee Chairperson Ms Ntobongwana thanked the residents of Gauteng for attending and participating in the public hearings notwithstanding the increase in Covid-19 infections in the province. She called on the residents to be safe and always adhere to the regulations aimed at reducing the spread of Covid-19. Ms Ntobongwana expressed her appreciation for the manner in which the residents participated and contributed towards the public hearings. 🙏



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Expropriation Bill

Local, provincial and national authorities will use this legislation to expropriate land in the public interest for varied reasons that seek to amongst others, promote inclusivity and access to natural resources.

The introduction of the Expropriation Bill should not be confused with the amendment of section 25 of the Constitution. The amendment of section 25 of the Constitution seeks to allow expropriation without compensation whereas the Expropriation Bill seeks to outline how expropriation must be done i.e. guide the processes and procedures for expropriation of property by organs of state.

Who may expropriate?

Expropriation can be done by an expropriating authority as stipulated in Chapter 1 of the Bill i.e. "an organ of state or a person empowered by this Act or any other legislation to acquire property through expropriation". For example, state departments in the three spheres of government (national, provincial and local). Courts also have the authority to rule over matters involving expropriation. Ministers may expropriate property for a public purpose or in the public interest (Chapter 2 of the Bill). The powers of expropriating authorities are stipulated in the Bill as well as certain limitations to expropriation.



Expropriation Bill

The Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure invites stakeholders and interested persons to submit written submissions on the Expropriation Bill [B23-2020].

What is expropriation?

In Chapter 1 of the Bill, "Expropriation" is defined as the compulsory gaining of property by an expropriating authority or an organ of the state upon request to an expropriating authority.

Why the Expropriation Bill?

The Bill is a review of the Expropriation Act 63 of 1975 emanating from a Cabinet approval of 15 September 2004. For many years, expropriation of land and land reform in South Africa has been a contentious issue and has necessitated a review of current expropriation laws.



The main objective of this Bill is to ensure that expropriation laws are in line with the Constitution of South Africa. The Bill will clearly outline how expropriation can be done and on what basis. The Bill will assist all organs of State, including the local municipalities who provide services to vulnerable groups including women, children, youth, LGBTQI+ and people with disabilities.

What may be expropriated?

According to the Constitution of South Africa Section 25 (4)(b), "property is not limited to land" thus any property including movable property and immovable property may be expropriated.

Why may expropriation be done?

Expropriation can be done for two purposes:

-  a public purpose; and
-  in the public interest.

Public purpose

Public purpose can be defined as "any purposes connected with the administration of the provisions of any law by any organ of state". An expropriating authority may only expropriate for a valid reason or purpose e.g. land expropriated for building a school or hospital.





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EXPROPRIATION BILL

Public interest




In terms of section 25(4)(a) of the Constitution "public interest includes the nation's commitment to land reform, and to reforms to bring about equitable access to all South Africa's natural resources". Section 25 (8) further states that the state may take "legislative steps and other measures ... in order to redress the results of past racial discrimination..."

Expropriation and land reform should be done in accordance with these two clauses. In the event of disputes, courts will determine compensation for expropriation.

What does urgent expropriation mean?

Chapter 7 of the Bill focuses on urgent expropriation. This section states, "An expropriating authority may, if a property is required on an urgent basis, exercise a right to use property temporarily for so long as it is urgently required for a period not exceeding 12 months".

Urgent expropriation cannot be done if the property:

-  belonging to national, provincial or local government is available;
-  is needed in terms of the Disaster Management Act; or
-  is protected by a court order.

What happens after you have submitted your inputs to the Committee?

The committee will consider all public inputs on the amendments of the principal Act for the National Assembly to pass the Bill. The Bill will then be referred with or without amendments to the National Council of Provinces for further deliberation and concurrence. Thereafter, the Bill will be sent to the President for assent and signing into an Act.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Who must participate and how?

All interested and affected parties, individuals and organised formations are invited to participate by completing a submission form on this link:

<https://forms.gle/UqG2TXTBNzhsy45i8> and email it to expropriationbill@parliament.gov.za or send it via WhatsApp on 060 550 9848

Please indicate your interest in making a verbal presentation. Copies of the Bill may be obtained from www.parliament.gov.za.






Enquiries must be directed to Ms Nola Matinise, Cell: 083 709 8397

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Parliament – Following up on our commitments to the People – Making your future work better

Did you know?

-  Parliament is made up of two Houses namely the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).
-  Parliament is the national law-making body of South Africa.
-  Bills are mainly introduced to Parliament by the Minister of the specific government department.
-  For the bill to be passed into law, the President needs to sign it (assent to it).
-  Parliament is obliged by the Constitution to get views of the people before passing any bill into an act or law.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Name of Bill	
Topic	
Name and Surname	
Name of organisation (if you belong to any)	
Your contact details	
Your comments on the Bill	
Recommendations	
Who else supports you	
Name:.....	
Surname:.....	



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Political parties unhappy that local government election date was announced without consultation

Leaders of the opposition in Parliament complained to the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), Mr Glen Mashinini, about what they consider to be President Cyril Ramaphosa's premature announcement that the 2021 local government elections will be held on 27 October 2021, writes Abel Mputing.



Leaders of political parties expressed their unhappiness about the announcement of local government elections on the eve of their meeting with the IEC. They told Mr Mashinini and the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sy Mamabolo, that the announcement of the election date diminished the fundamental purpose of their meeting with the IEC. The leader of the United Democratic Movement (UDM), General Bantu Holomisa, said the announcement of the local government elections before the meeting with the IEC meant, among other things, that the IEC is undermining political parties. "You have taken us for granted and as boys," added General Holomisa. The Inkatha Freedom Party's (IFP's) Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa noted that the current projections about Covid-19 infections during the election period are based on "nothing but hope". He said this will have a direct bearing on the feasibility of political campaign activities and the elections themselves, and will likely increase the risk of infection.

"It worries one to think that the IEC will have to open up well over 22 000 stations for registration throughout the country," Mr Hlengwa noted. "This against a vaccination process that does not inspire confidence." The Deputy President of the Economic Freedom Fighters, Mr Floyd Shivambu, agreed with this view. He questioned the wisdom of holding elections in October when there is no reliable scientific evidence on which to base this decision. He further asked if the IEC was consulted by the Ministers concerned before the announcement of the date was made. The Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize, responded to say that the government has been in constant consultation with the IEC, and has briefed it extensively on the matter. The Minister of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, also responded that they have consulted the IEC on the feasibility of elections. The government is of the view that the elections can take place, given the current low levels of

infections. She added that if health and safety protocols are adhered to, the situation is likely to remain constant, which would increase the feasibility of holding the elections. Other political leaders raised concerns that the pandemic could impact on the potential for free and fair elections. Responding to that, the IEC's Chief Executive Officer's Office, Mr Mamabolo, said if such situation is eminent the IEC can consult the Constitutional Court to extend the terms of municipal officials until it is possible to hold elections. Despite this explanation, the leader of Economic Freedom Fighters, Mr Julius Malema, questioned whether these elections would be free and fair, given that if they go ahead as planned, activities such as door-to-door campaigns and rallies will be constrained. In his view, free and fair elections are unlikely in this scenario. The EFF believes that the 2021 local government elections should be postponed to a later date, as Covid-19 has hampered political activities. 🇿🇦



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**"THIS
AGAINST A
VACCINATION
PROCESS
THAT DOES
NOT INSPIRE
CONFIDENCE."**

- Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa

Minister of Health briefs IEC and political parties on possible scenarios for Covid-19 during local government elections

The Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) held its Political Liaison Committee meeting virtually recently to give leaders of political parties a report on its readiness for the upcoming local government elections to be held on 27 October 2021, reports Abel Mputing.

Presiding over the meeting, the Chairperson of the IEC, Mr Glen Mashinini, reminded political party leaders that the meeting was a standing arrangement that the IEC undertakes on the eve of any election period.

Mr Mashinini told representatives of political parties that various government departments, including the Departments of Health; Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs; and Home Affairs are direct stakeholders in every countrywide South African election.

Political party leaders heard that, as these elections will take place during the Covid-19 pandemic, additional precautions must be put in place to ensure that they do not become a “super-spreader” event. The Department of Health’s Minister, Dr Zweli Mkhize, was therefore given the opportunity to update the meeting on possible scenarios and the feasibility of holding these elections.

Dr Mkhize provided some predictions about the possible spread of the virus during the election period and noted the difficulty in determining possible scenarios and the containment measures necessary to prevent them. He urged caution, saying the department is working on conjecture and that, with

the constant mutations of the virus, it is difficult to be definitive.

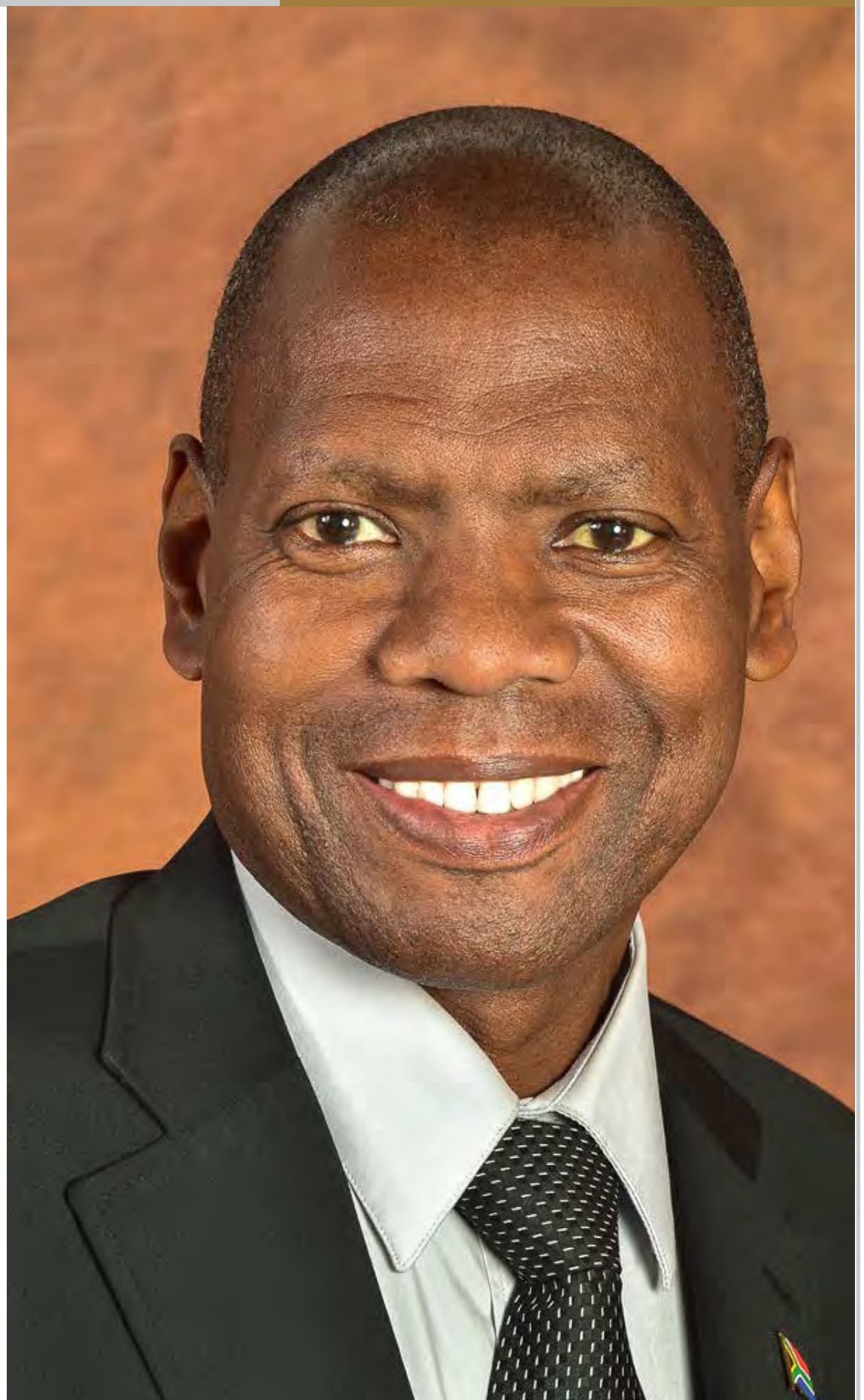
“Safe to say that we need a lot of caution in the winter season, because there is a likelihood of a spike in infections,” Dr Mkhize said. “All we can do as a department is to monitor the infection and fatality rates and recommend what should be done.”

As the elections will take place during the third phase of the vaccination drive, the Department of Health predicts that some 25 000 people will be vaccinated per day during this period. “This will be done in more than 30 000 sites that will be set up all over the country, most of which will be in communities, churches and stadiums. This is meant to speed up the vaccination process to ensure it reaches a much larger population.”

He also said that there is little risk of returning to the hard lockdown of the second quarter of 2020. However, the upsurge of infections predicted for the winter of 2021 could coincide with the political activities leading up to the elections. Therefore, Dr Mkhize urged political parties to be cautious. 🇿🇦



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Dr Zweli Mkhize

NCOP Chief Whip happy with progress at Botshabelo Industrial Park

The Chief Whip of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Mr Seiso Mohai, welcomed the revitalisation of the Botshabelo Industrial Park in the Free State, which will attract more investors and promote industrialisation in the township to address inequalities created by the apartheid regime, writes Mlindi Mpindi.



Mr Seiso Mohai, Chief Whip of the NCOP

As part of their constituency work, Mr Mohai, accompanied by the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, and the Free State Provincial Whip, Mr Itumeleng Ntsube, undertook an oversight visit to the Botshabelo Industrial Park to assess progress and its impact on the revitalisation of the township economy in the Free State.

The Botshabelo Industrial Park is part of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition's Revitalisation of Industrial Parks Programme. It is implemented throughout the country to renovate state-owned industrial parks in historically disadvantaged areas.

The delegation was briefed by many stakeholders, including the Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Ms Nomalungelo Gina, and the Chief Whip of the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Mr

Zolile Mangcotywa, on the progress made and the crucial role the park has in advancing the economy.

The revamping of the Botshabelo Industrial Park has attracted investments of over R500 million and so far has created more than 5 000 direct job opportunities. 108 of 144 factories in the park are occupied and fully operational, increasing the park occupancy rate to more than 76.5%.

"The revitalisation of the township economy and projects in place have changed the image of Botshabelo Industrial Park and the perception many business people had about it. According to the presentations made to us, clearly more investors are in the pipeline," said Mr Mohai.

The delegation was also happy to see that the park's state-of-the-art digital hub is fully operational. Mr Mohai noted

that the hub has received R5 million in funding from the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda), situated in the Department of Small Business Development. The delegation was pleased to hear that Seda is currently hosting activations and boot camps in Thaba Nchu, Botshabelo and other areas surrounding Bloemfontein, to create awareness about the digital hub and to identify young people who will receive training at the hub as part of developing entrepreneurs in innovation, to equip them for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. 🇿🇦



National Assembly appoints MPs to look at the removal of Public Protector

The National Assembly (NA) Speaker, Ms Thandi Modise, recently received the names of Members of the NA who will constitute the Section 194 Committee to enquire into whether there are grounds for the removal from office of Public Protector, Adv Busisiwe Mkhwebane.



Members of the committee come from each of the 14 political parties represented in the NA. 11 will be voting members of the committee and another 15 will be non-voting members. Parties had until 31 March to submit names and these names have been published in the Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports of Parliament, dated 7 April 2021.

VOTING MEMBERS

African National Congress
Dlakude, Ms Doris Eunice Dyantyi, Mr Qubudile Richard Joemat-Pettersson, Ms Tina Monica Gungubele, Mr Mondli

Hermans, Ms Judy Nkosi, Mr Bekizwe Simon Mapulane, Mr Mohlopi Phillemon (Alternate) Mgweba, Ms Teilsiswa (Alternate)

Democratic Alliance

Lotriet, Dr Annelie Schreiber, Dr Leon Amos

Economic Freedom Fighters

Malema, Mr Julius Sello

Inkatha Freedom Party

Majozi, Ms Zandile

Freedom Front Plus

Mulder, Dr Cornelius Petrus

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

African National Congress
Tolashe, Ms Nokuzola Gladys

Nqola, Mr Xola
Democratic Alliance
 Nodada, Mr Baxolile
 Babongile

Economic Freedom Fighters
 Maotwe, Ms Omphile
 Mankoba Confidence

Inkatha Freedom Party
 Msimang, Prof Christian
 Themba

Freedom Front Plus
 Denner, Ms Heloise

African Christian Democratic Party
 Sukers, Ms Marie Elizabeth

United Democratic Movement
 Holomisa, Mr Bantubonke
 Harrington

African Transformation Movement
 Marawu, Ms Thandiswa
 Linnen

GOOD
 August, Mr Shaun

National Freedom Party
 Shaik-Emam, Mr Ahmed
 Munzoor

African Independent Congress
 Ntshayisa, Mr Lulama
 Maxwell

Congress of the People
 Madisha, Mr William
 Mothipa

Pan Africanist Congress

Nyhontso, Mr Mzwanele

Al Jama-ah
 Hendricks, Mr Mogamad
 Ganief Ebrahim
 The NA voted in favour of establishing the committee at its sitting on 16 March, after adopting the report of an independent panel of experts, which recommended that such a committee be established.

The NA Rules require a Section 194 Committee to conduct the inquiry, to establish whether charges are sustainable and to report to the NA. The committee's report must contain findings, recommendations and reasons, and must be scheduled for consideration and debate with appropriate urgency. The committee, which must conclude its business within a reasonable time frame, must elect its Chairperson at its first meeting. 🇿🇦



Committee Chairperson welcomes progress on 'refugees' in Cape Town

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs, Adv Bongani Bongo, welcomed the decision by the South African government to cease the temporary shelter services at Paint City and Wingfield in Cape Town within 14 days, writes Malatswa Molepo.



The Chairperson believes that everything humanly possible has been done to accommodate, discuss and find workable solutions to the impasse. "The continued stay at the two sites is in direct contravention of South Africa's policy of no-encampment for refugees in the country. Spending on those sites is outside the regulatory frameworks governing various government departments and agencies. It is in this context that we believe the decision by the government is the correct one," Adv Bongo said.

The committee has since the start of the protests highlighted the need to find solutions within the law, and the need to implement an exit strategy on the matter. The offers made by various United Nations (UN) agencies are, according to the Chairperson, beyond generous and should be taken up by the protesters.

The Chairperson also welcomed the announcement of verification

processes and deportation of those that cannot be accommodated by refugee and asylum legislation. "We welcome the progress in processing all applications for asylum and refugee status and the deportation of those that do not qualify. We call for the speedy conclusion of all processes to verify, grant permits and deport those that do not qualify," Adv Bongo said.

Adv Bongo emphasised his appreciation for the 390 individuals that have accepted the offer of reintegration into local communities. The successful reintegration of the 390 is confirmation that communities are willing to reintegrate those refugees who had left. Furthermore, the Chairperson welcomed the announcement that 121 individuals have signed voluntary repatriation offered by the UN.

The Chairperson called on those still residing at the two sites to consider the offers made by

various UN agencies and the government to bring to an end this matter. "We reiterate the call we made earlier that respect for laws is paramount in South Africa and breaking of those laws is untenable," Adv Bongo said. 🇿🇦



Adv Busisiwe Mkhwebane



Cogta committee - speed up implementation of Traditional and Khoisan Leadership Act

The Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) has called upon the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to accelerate the processes that must be followed before the Khoi-San can take their rightful place in the National House of Traditional Leaders (NHTL) and be recognised as public office bearers according to the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Act, reports Mava Lukani.



LEADERSHIP: National House of Traditional Leaders with President Cyril Ramaphosa

The Chairperson of the committee, Ms Faith Muthambi, said: "Many Khoi-San leaders and Khoi-San communities have waited a very long time for the proclamation of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act. As a committee, we have also been expressing concern around the delayed proclamation of the Act, as this amounts to making unfulfilled promises to the

people."

The committee had an engagement recently with the department, the NHTL and traditional leaders on the implementation of the Traditional Leadership Act and to receive an update on the 2017 Indaba resolutions. Briefing the committee, Deputy Minister, Mr Obed Bapela, said the indaba made 17 resolutions, which

he likened to the National Development Plan, as they clearly define the short-, medium- and long-term objectives of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act.

According to the committee, another provision of note in the Act concerns the Minister's intervention where premiers fail to resolve leadership disputes over the recognition of traditional leaders below the level of kings and queens. The committee had previously expressed concern around the increasing number of such disputes, where the government was at the centre of confusion. These disputes create serious divisions and feuds within the affected communities.

The department had previously indicated to the committee that legislation vested the responsibility to resolve traditional leadership disputes of this nature with the provinces. The committee found this frustrating, as it felt that the department was shifting the responsibility away from itself. The Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act now removes all doubt and provides certainty that the Minister responsible for traditional affairs has the authority to intervene in instances where provinces fail to resolve recognition disputes, in consultation with the premiers.

The Chairperson of the NHTL, Inkosi Sipho Mahlangu, said they are happy with the proclamation of the Act and the fact that the leaders of Khoi-San communities will now be part of the institution. However, the NHTL is disappointed with the slow pace of the promulgation of the Traditional Leadership and Khoi-San Bill and the lack of clarity surrounding the budget for its implementation.

The committee will have a follow-up engagement with the department and the NHTL on the implementation of the indaba resolutions. 🗳️

National Council of Provinces passes two Amendment Bills

The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) passed two Amendment Bills recently at its virtual sitting. These are the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act Amendment Bill (Ultra) and the Correctional Services Amendment Bill.



The Ultra Bill stems from two court judgments. On the first finding, the Constitutional Court found that the Ultra Act 1991 (Act No. 112 of 1991 as amended) was unconstitutional, as it discriminated against the rights of women to independently own property. Secondly, the court found and ordered that Ultra's Section 3 was inapplicable in the former apartheid homelands of Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei (formerly known as the TBVC states).

Section 25(6) and (9) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa compels Parliament to pass legislation that ensures

that a person or community whose tenure is legally insecure as a result of past racially discriminatory laws or practices is entitled to either tenure that is legally secure or comparable redress.

The Bill was passed by the National Assembly on 1 December 2020 and referred to the NCOP's Select Committee on Land Reform, Environment, Mineral Resources and Energy for consideration and processing. The committee advertised the Bill on various platforms calling for public comments and submissions. In response to the call for public comments, some of the submissions received were from the Royal Bafokeng Nation (RBN), Banking

Association of South Africa, Social Justice Coalition, Corruption Watch, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the Land and Accountability Research Centre.

Further to the written submissions, the committee also received electronic communications. The committee also held negotiating and final mandates with provinces, seven of which submitted mandates in favour of the Bill, one did not support and one province did not submit.

Meanwhile, the Correctional Services Amendment Bill seeks to amend the principal Act (the Correctional Services Act, 1998 - Act No. 111 of 1998) in order to align the definition of "Minister" with the amended portfolios as assigned by the President. The Bill further proposes amendments to the principal Act to align it with the Constitution with regard to the placement of a sentenced offender under day parole, parole and correctional supervision and to provide for the minimum periods to be served before becoming eligible for consideration for such release and placement in terms of the parole regime applicable at the date of the commission of an offence. The two Bills passed will now be sent to the President for assent. 🇿🇦



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Scopa suspends its inquiry into Eskom CEO



The Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) agreed to suspend its inquiry into multiple allegations of racism and financial mismanagement against the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Eskom, to allow an Eskom-initiated inquiry into related matters to run its course, writes Mava Lukani.

The committee was requested by the Minister of Public Enterprises to suspend its inquiry to avoid parallel inquiries. In agreeing to suspend its inquiry, the committee has reiterated its commitment to undertaking an inquiry and its suspension should not be misconstrued to mean the abdication of its responsibilities.

The committee expressed its satisfaction regarding the terms of reference and scope of the Eskom inquiry, as they cover all the material aspects of the allegations. It said the onus is now on Eskom and the Special Counsel to conduct an inquiry that is beyond reproach.

The committee has agreed to give Eskom 90 days within

which to carry on with its inquiry. The committee believes that running a parallel inquiry would be tantamount to wasteful expenditure, and therefore the outcomes of the Eskom inquiry will be assessed by the committee at a later stage to allow the committee to make appropriate recommendations.

Notwithstanding that, the committee agreed that its ordinary oversight processes will continue and it will, in accordance with its constitutional mandate, proceed to conduct oversight in respect of issues relating to deviations, expansions and matters raised by the SIU.

The committee will further invite the Chairperson of the Eskom board to explain to the

committee the reasons behind the delay in their decision to institute an inquiry. This is because the committee is of the view that the Eskom inquiry has been triggered by the committee's stated intention to investigate the allegations.

The committee believes that there are serious problems at Eskom and that the alleged breakdown in the relationship between Eskom's CEO and the Chief Procurement Officer impacts negatively on the power utility in general, and on sound financial management in particular. The committee said the load-shedding that started in 2008 is an outcome of these problems and there is no hope that it will end soon if issues remain unresolved. 🇿🇦



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Public hearings expose concerns with the Employment Equity Amendment Bill

The Portfolio Committee on Employment and Labour conducted public hearings on the Employment Equity Amendment Bill during the recent constituency period, a convenient time for the committee, according to the Chairperson of the committee, Ms Lindelwa Dunjwa, reports Sakhile Mokoena.



Ms Lindelwa Dunjwa, Chairperson of the PC on Employment and Labour

On day one of the public hearings, Sakeliga, the Institute for Race Relations, the Gender Commission and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) made presentations before the committee. Sakeliga's Mr Piet le Roux said they advise against the Bill, because it has conceptual problems. "There should be a rethinking on the Bill, and what its successes and targets would look like. The timing is bad for this Bill, which seeks to introduce red tape. The ministerial determination and the quotas are drags," said Mr le Roux.

He said the Bill sought to extend to the private sector, as representivity was achieved seven years ago in the public sector. "For the Bill to be successful, it would mean moving white people to other provinces from Gauteng, as there is a concentration of them

there." This movement would not be a problem, Sakeliga believes, as long as such movement is regulated through government policy. Sakeliga believes the Bill introduces racial classification, which South Africa should move away from.

Another Sakeliga's representative, Mr Martin van Staden, identified other areas of concern, including technical drafting, the ministerial determination of targets and the lack of impact assessment. "Our preference is that this Bill be not considered. Only Parliament can determine legislation; the Minister can implement." The Minister cannot regulate to satisfy himself or government, as is contemplated in clause 4 and 12. "No impact assessment was conducted on the Bill. This will be a sorry state of affairs. We need a quantification of the consequences, both intended and unforeseen this will bring

on our economy." Dr Anthea Jeffery, representing the Institute of Race Relations, said it had concerns about the Bill, as the amendment could have excessive costs. Furthermore, the Bill is unconstitutional and cannot be adopted. Employment equity and broad-based black economic empowerment (BBBEE) should be replaced.

The Institute of Race Relations believes the Bill will stall economic recovery, prompt a further flight of scarce skills and capital, and leave more people unemployed. In addition, the insinuation that black people are unable to prosper without the BBBEE is problematic.

The committee asked questions from the participants about the timing of the Bill and whether there would be a better time to introduce it. Committee Members also asked questions about the Minister of the Department of Employment and Labour's powers with regard to numerical targets, the means test for upward mobility, and whether numerical targets were another kind of a quota. Ms Dunjwa was concerned about the presentations' implication that the Minister should not interfere with the private sector. 🇿🇦

The Presiding Officers concerned with high unemployment in South Africa

The Presiding Officers of Parliament, led by the Speaker of the National Assembly; Ms Thandi Modise, and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mr Amos Masondo, joined the nation and the rest of the world in honouring workers across the globe on International Workers' Day.



In South Africa, the struggle for better and improved rights in the workplace, which were intertwined with the struggle for social justice, freedom and democracy, has come a long way since 1994. Great strides have been made to transform the labour legislative landscape to eliminate restrictive and oppressive labour laws. This has ensured progressive laws that guarantee inalienable rights, such as freedom of association, collective bargaining, the right to strike and workplace freedom. Celebrating the contributions

of workers inevitably draws attention to the scores of South Africans without jobs. The Presiding Officers note with concern the unemployment in South Africa, which particularly affects the working class, most notably women and young people. The Quarterly Labour Force Survey released by Statistics South Africa shows that South Africa's unemployment rate increased to a record 32.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2020 compared to the third quarter. On this day, Parliament cannot turn a blind eye to the

reality that workers across the length and breadth of the country live with millions of their unemployed brothers and sisters, a situation that is further exacerbated by the realities of Covid-19. While the road ahead seems bumpy and impossible, we are inspired by the words of our first democratic President, Nelson Mandela, when he said "it always seems impossible until it's done". We are indeed in a battlefield and the tide will surely turn.

South Africans are obliged by our political history to work together, united in our diversity, to build a better country; to build an economy that takes care of its people by absorbing more people into the labour market, guaranteeing their job security, decent wages and labour rights. The objectives and goals of the Freedom Charter and the National Development Plan, for a truly non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous nation, requires united efforts towards their fulfilment.

As Covid-19 continues to sweep the globe, Parliament takes this opportunity to salute workers around the country on the frontline fighting the virus. Their commitment and desire to serve is unmatched and deserves all our praise. Since the beginning of the pandemic, frontline healthcare workers have worked tirelessly, with their own needs often neglected. Going to work has placed frontline health workers under immense and unprecedented pressure, and has put their physical, mental and social well-being at risk. Their patriotism and desire to serve is indeed commendable. The Presiding Officers of Parliament welcome the huge strides in labour relations South Africa has achieved over the 27 years of our maturing democracy. However, they also acknowledge that more still needs to be done to ensure that South Africa's working class truly enjoy democracy's fruits. 🇿🇦

A servant of the people passes on

In April, Parliament lost a Member of the National Assembly (NA) Ms Jacqueline Mofokeng. Parliament's Presiding Officers, NA Speaker Ms Thandi Modise and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Chairperson Mr Amos Masondo, described Ms Mofokeng as a seasoned and dedicated parliamentarian who served the country with diligence, passion and selflessness.

Ms Mofokeng was one of the most experienced and knowledgeable legislators whose experience in the legislature began when she served for two decades as a Member of the Gauteng Legislature, where she was an asset, particularly in the committees she served.

Ms Mofokeng joined the NA in 2019 as an African National Congress representative from Gauteng. She served on three parliamentary committees, the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services, the Joint Constitutional Review Committee and the Portfolio Committee on Police. She was the Whip of the Justice and Correctional Services committee.

Chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Bulelani Magwanishe, said the committee lost a treasure in Ms Mofokeng. He said: "The honourable whip was a dedicated and disciplined Member of the committee, who always made valuable contributions to the committee."

According to Mr Magwanishe, Ms Mofokeng was particularly passionate about the gender-based violence legislation that the committee is currently dealing with, and conducted herself in such a way as to ensure a better and safer South Africa for all. 🇿🇦



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Ms Jacqueline Mofokeng