

# Revised land law is better

New Age, Pg 4

SIYABONGA MKHWANAZI

THE revised version of the Expropriation Bill will allow the courts to determine compensation in cases where there is a dispute over the value of land expropriated by the state.

Deputy Minister of Public Works Jeremy Cronin yesterday told Parliament's oversight committee that this was an improved piece of legislation as it would allow those whose property had been expropriated by the state to seek redress from the courts.

Cabinet approved the bill last month and it was gazetted for public comment.

Tabling the bill before the portfolio committee on public works Cronin said the previous draft law was withdrawn from Parliament in 2008 for a number of reasons.

The proposed legislation allows the state to expropriate private or public property in the public interest or for public purposes.

The deputy minister told MPs expropriation of property would cover areas like land reform. The bill also allows for compensation of those whose property has been expropriated.

"What is critical in this draft (law), as opposed to the 2008 draft is that it closed down access to the courts in case of disputes in compensation," he said.

He added that the process to be followed in implementing the draft law would become a test for administrative justice.

*siyabongam@thenewage.co.za*