

# Expropriation Bill sent back to National Assembly by Zuma

DENNIS CRUYWAGEN

PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma has informed the speaker of Parliament, Baleka Mbete, that he was sending the Expropriation Bill back to the National Assembly for reconsideration.

He also advised Parliament in his letter of February 14 that, because of the

importance of the bill and the impact it might have on traditional areas, it should also be referred to the National House of Traditional Leaders.

Zuma said that the issue of public participation was important when legislation was passed.

He said: "The Expropriation Bill is a very important piece of legislation.

The bill gives effect to the right of the state to expropriate land under certain circumstances. It therefore follows that the passing of this important bill will require that there be meaningful public participation on a matter which has been a source of division and discord in our historical past."

Referring to judgments by the Con-

stitutional Court, Zuma said public participation in the legislative process was an important element of participatory democracy.

The binding effects of the judgment he had referred to, as well as similarities with the Expropriation Bill, lead him to conclude that the bill may not pass constitutional muster.

In another letter to Mbete from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the National Assembly has been asked to recommend that Abel Mawela be appointed as chairperson of the Board of the National Lotteries Commission.

The request been referred to the portfolio committee on trade and industry.

*dennisc@thenewage.co.za*