

## NASREC CONFERENCE

# ANC studies new tax to help drive shift in land ownership

**Natasha Marrian**

The ANC is investigating a land tax as another way to drive its redistribution, according to the final resolutions from its Nasrec conference released by the party.

The head of the ANC's economic transformation subcommittee, Enoch Godongwana, said on Monday there were many views on the idea of a land tax, and he confirmed the governing party was investigating a tax instrument to drive land redistribution. He said one view was for taxing land held for speculation, but this would be discussed further at a party workshop on land.

The party's final conference resolutions were publicly released last week. Interestingly, the final resolution released is silent on amending Section 25 of the Constitution.

This is in line with public comments by ANC leaders last week, including MPs Vincent Smith and Mathole Motshekga, who are on Parliament's joint committee on constitutional review. They said at a dialogue on land last week that it was not a foregone conclusion that the Constitution would be amended.

Motshekga told Business Day that the committee would be crisscrossing the country in the coming months to gauge the views of ordinary South Africans on the matter. He said experts, as well as former judges who have expressed views on amending the Constitution, would also be free to contribute during the public hearings.

Deputy Public Works Minister Jeremy Cronin, who leads a government task team on land, said the emerging view in the ANC was not to amend the Constitution but to beef up existing legislation. He said while the Constitution had been amended many times, amending Section 25 would be the first time the Bill of Rights was changed.

The ANC's resolution on land redistribution, released last week, also contains more detail than the much-debated land expropriation without

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