

Expropriation bill to be withdrawn

MAYIBONGWE MAQHINA

STAFF WRITER

THE LONG overdue expropriation amendment bill, which provides for just and equitable compensation, is set to be withdrawn from the parliamentary processes until further notice.

This after the public works portfolio committee decided yesterday to request the National Assembly to withdraw the bill owing to the process underway to consider land expropriation without compensation.

The bill, which was passed in 2016, was sent back to Parliament by former president Jacob Zuma for reconsideration because there was a lack of consultation.

It had yet to be reconsidered when the constitutional review committee was

tasked this year look into amending the constitution to provide land expropriation without compensation.

Yesterday, committee chairperson Humphrey Mmemezi said the bill could not sit with the committee forever and that a decision had to be taken on its future.

“In terms of what is happening in South Africa, we thought that it is necessary to withdraw the bill,” he said before citing joint rules for the bill’s withdrawal.

He said once withdrawn, the minister would immediately come back with a revised bill.

“It would take into account what the ad hoc committee would have decided,” Mmemezi said.

Briefing the committee, Public Works Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin said both land and expropriation were very emo-

tional issues.

Cronin urged Parliament and the committee in particular to understand the country’s responsibility on the situation.

He said there was a need to send out a clear signal to those concerned about the constitutionality of land expropriation without compensation and be really implicit in the constitution that there will be no Zimbabwean-style land grabs.

The proposed withdrawal of the bill was welcomed by the ANC, UDM and FF Plus with the DA’s Malcolm Figg reserving his party’s right to support or reject the report that will motivate for the bill’s withdrawal.

Mmemezi said: “It can’t be stability for a few and the majority remain landless. We want stability (and) everybody smile and appreciate being South African”.