

# Land bill to be withdrawn

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THE EXPROPRIATION Amendment Bill, which provides for just and equitable compensation, is to be withdrawn from the parliamentary processes until further notice.

This came after the public works portfolio committee decided yesterday to request the National Assembly to withdraw the bill owing to the process that is currently under way to consider land expropriation without compensation.

The bill, passed in 2016, was sent back to Parliament by former president Jacob Zuma for reconsideration due to the lack of consultation.

It had yet to be reconsidered when the constitutional review committee was tasked this year to look into amending the constitution to provide for land expropriation without compensation.

Committee chairperson Humphrey Mmemenzi said the bill could not sit with the committee forever and a decision had to be taken on its future.

“In terms of what is happening in South Africa, we thought 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 He said once withdrawn, the minister would immediately come back with a revised bill.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.”

Briefing the committee, Public Works Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin said land and expropriation were emotional issues. He urged Parliament and the committee to understand the country’s responsibility, and send out a clear signal that there would be no Zimbabwean-style land grabs.