

Bill withdrawn 'to avoid parallel process'



Last Tuesday, the Portfolio Committee on Public Works resolved to withdraw the Expropriation Bill so it could be reintroduced after the Joint Constitutional Review Committee finishes its work on expropriation of land without compensation.

“The committee has observed that the work of the Joint Constitutional Review Committee is approaching a conclusion and the recommendations will be made available once concluded before end September, which will lead to new parliamentary processes, including legislative processes.

“New directions should become clearer before the end of 2018,” reads a statement from committee chairperson Humphrey Mmemenzi.

“The committee is aware that this process will lead to the minister of public works reintroducing a revised Expropriation Bill that will possibly include clauses dealing with expropriation of land without compensation.

“That Bill will give more clarity on how South Africans should deal with the land question and the property issues that today still favour the minority at the expense of the majority of South Africans, in particular black people.

The committee believes that rejecting this Bill in its current form will assist and avoid running a parallel process while there is a committee of Parliament that is still busy with the possible [review] of section 25 of the Constitution.

“The committee hopes for a better piece of legislation that will include input from all South Africans on the land and property question.”

The committee has adopted a report recommending to the National Assembly that the current Expropriation Bill be rejected.

Mmemenzi believes the National Assembly might deal with this matter as early as this week.

The ANC study group on public works welcomed the withdrawal. “We reiterated our commitment to pursue the expropriation of land without compensation participation process while the Bill was before the National Council of Provinces.”

— Jan Gerber, News24