

# EFF and ANC on land: who will bend?

THE EFF and ANC's bid to amend the Constitution will hit another bump in the road when one of the parties will be forced to compromise on their position on the land issue.

The two parties were ecstatic following the successful adoption of the report by the joint constitutional review committee (JCRC) on Thursday, which recommends to Parliament that section 25 of the Constitution be amended to explicitly allow for land to be expropriated without compensation.

However, the sweetness of that victory could soon turn sour as one of the parties will have to change its position to accommodate the other. The two parties will have to find common ground so that they can join for-

ces to pass the Constitutional Amendment Bill in Parliament with the required two-thirds majority.

The EFF's Tebogo Mokwele, a member of the JCRC, told *City Press* that, while the party had a clear position on the land question, the ANC was divided on its view. "Within the ANC, I can tell you there are different views. Some leaders say don't expropriate. President Cyril Ramaphosa is abroad, assuring white people that 'we are not going to mess with your things, don't worry about this land thing,'" Mokwele said.

"On the other hand, we have got these radical ones who say 'let's take everything, let the state be the custodian'. So we will see when we engage everybody from the ANC, but what we can tell you is that we have a clear position."

The EFF is in favour of blanket expropriation, which would see the state becoming the custodian of all land.

The ANC's Vincent Smith said that negotiations would have to happen between leaders of the two parties to see where they could find common ground.

"We would have to talk as you do in politics. As things stand now in our recommendations, we said mixed and they said total expropriation," Smith said.

"When we get to that point, we will have to sit and convince each other. It is going to have to be done to get buy-in from the EFF."

The Department of Public Works is in the process of drafting an expropriation bill that would outline in which instances expropriation without compensation could occur. — City Press.