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Expropriation Bill is vague, problematic

DESPITE numerous written and oral submissions from KwaZulu-Natal's people, indicating concern and confusion around the Expropriation Bill, the ANC and EFF in the province have bulldozed ahead in a bid to finalise a negotiating mandate.

This after a recent KZN public works portfolio committee meeting saw the doomsday coalition vote in support of a vague and problematic piece of legislation in the face of strong objections raised by opposition parties.

The ANC/EFF stance smacks of self-interest. The bill is in favour of the government and offers no protection to KZN citizens.

The DA has highlighted numerous concerns which include:

- ◆ The bill provides for "expropriation for public good or interest", with the result that the government could arbitrarily decide what constitutes public good or interest.
- ◆ The bill adopts the constitutional definition of property to include intellectual property which means that expropriation could go way beyond just land and buildings.
- ◆ It also provides for nil compensation for expropriated property, leaving property owners in the lurch in terms of outstanding bank loans, rates and utilities.
- ◆ There has been little opportunity for input from traditional leaders despite most of the KZN land belonging to the Ingonyama Trust.
- ◆ Property valuation remains a concern, with a lack of clarity regarding valuers' qualifications and whether relocation costs and other important factors would be considered.
- ◆ The transfer of expropriated property can proceed as normal if there are delays in compensation

despite the effect on those waiting to be reimbursed.

Furthermore, while KZN has held eight public hearings, most have been away from urban areas.

This is an obvious attempt by the ANC to discourage maximum public participation. Residents of the province's only metro, eThekweni, did not even have a public hearing; instead they had to travel to Pietermaritzburg to voice their concerns.

While the government should have some form of expropriation legislation, it cannot be one that offers no compensation.

It also cannot be expropriation that has not been properly considered and which protects the government and not the people. If the ANC cannot even get the basics right, then it is not equipped to handle the complex issue of expropriation and be fair and professional in its execution.

| Nair DA KZN spokesperson on public works

Political leadership is failing the nation

THERE can be no doubt any longer that South African politicians, in particular those from the ANC and the EFF, are now more nefarious, greedy and ruthless than ever before.

A political party that openly condemns Israel for defending itself against the heinous attacks from the stone-cold Hamas group, is a far cry from what is expected from a predominantly Christian nation.

The ANC has exhausted its obsession with apartheid in an attempt to hide its multiple failures and inadequacies from its enslaved supporters. Social grants have been used as a secret weapon to brainwash most poor and rural communities to keep voting for a party who feels no regard or sympathy for the very people it claims to want to set free from being historically disadvantaged.

If only there were a way to trumpet this sad truth from the highest of mountains, so that the people of South Africa, those hard-working minimum wage warriors could finally wake up from their slumber to vote for change and a better future.

It is the arrogance of a president who claims to be such a wise and articulate man, while backstabbing most South Africans by using clever phrases, convincing naive citizens that this time, corruption will be dealt with, unemployment will be less and crime will be eradicated.

Of course, nothing he ever says materialises. He has become the expert