

Enquiries: Mandla Mabuza 078 456 7210

MEDIA STATEMENT

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The National Department of Public Works has officially released a document for public comment on the envisaged Expropriation Act.

The envisaged Expropriation Act seeks to harmonise the over 100 acts and ordinances that exist in the country dealing with expropriations. The principal legislative framework for expropriation in South Africa is the Expropriation Act 63 of 1975. It is a restrictive piece of legislation that restricts the state to expropriate only for "public purpose". It does not comply with the Constitutional provision which state that the State can expropriate "in the public interest."

The public has been given 30 days to make submissions on the proposed Expropriation. The Department intends to start the legislative processes in enacting the new Expropriation Act at the beginning of 2008.

The Expropriation Paper has been issued under number 30468 and is available for a fee from Government Gazetter and on request from the Ministry of Public Works.

END

Issued by:

Thami Mchunu

Ministry of Public Works

Media Liaison Officer 012 310 5142 079 519 6997