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## **SPEECH EXTRACT**

### **MINISTER MACPHERSON ASSURES INVESTORS THAT THERE WILL BE NO LAND GRABS OR CONFISCATION IN SA**

*(Note to editors: The following is an extract from a speech delivered by Public Works & Infrastructure Minister, Dean Macpherson, to members of the investment community at the Margins of Mining Indaba Opening Reception in Cape Town City Centre on Monday evening, 3 February 2025. A full version of the speech can be found [here](#).)*

- Public Works & Infrastructure Minister, Dean Macpherson, has stated that policy certainty is essential if South Africa is to attract additional investment to grow the economy and create jobs.
- For this reason, the Minister stressed the importance of clearing up any misconceptions surrounding the Expropriation Act.
- He emphasised that this is a time for calm and reasoned discussion and that the Government of National Unity must carefully explain the facts surrounding the legislation to the United States Trump administration.

“Ladies and gentlemen,

It has been proven globally that infrastructure investment is one of the most effective ways to drive a country’s economic expansion and job growth.

Countries that have prioritised strategic infrastructure development have seen direct increases in GDP, stronger industrial output, and greater employment opportunities.

As the Government of National Unity (GNU), we have made this a priority.

At the Cabinet Lekgotla, shortly after the formation of the GNU, we reaffirmed that reducing unemployment is our most important priority.

We all agreed that if we were unable to meaningfully bring down unemployment, we would have failed.

Furthermore, we recognised that economic growth driven by infrastructure investment is the most sustainable way to achieve that goal.

Research has shown that for every 1% increase in state infrastructure investment, GDP growth can rise by up to 3%, which in turn accelerates job creation across multiple sectors, including mining, construction, and manufacturing.

This is why the GNU is expanding infrastructure investment, removing obstacles to project implementation, and working to crowd in private sector investment.

Through Infrastructure South Africa—or ISA for short—we are prioritising key projects that will have the biggest impact, particularly in industries like mining that rely on efficient logistics, energy, and water security to operate effectively.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are also well aware that investor confidence is directly linked to policy certainty.

It is, therefore, imperative that South Africa provides a clear, predictable regulatory environment that drives long-term investment.

For this reason, I would like to take the opportunity to clarify concerns about the recently signed Expropriation Act.

There have been misconceptions about this legislation, including recent comments made on social media by the President of the United States.

I want to be unequivocal: No one in South Africa is having their land confiscated.

As the Minister of Public Works & Infrastructure, land grabs will never be allowed.

This is my commitment to the people of South Africa and our partners around the world.

Instead, the Expropriation Act sets out a clear legal framework under which expropriation may take place—always with due process and court oversight.

Furthermore, Section 25 of the Constitution remains firmly in place, enshrining property rights in the highest law of our country.

I also want to be clear: I do not believe it is helpful to engage in brinkmanship.

We have an entire country to think about, and posturing will only create casualties—particularly among those who want a government that prioritises economic growth and job creation.

As a member of the Government of National Unity, we will always respond calmly to crises like this and put the interests of South Africa first.

This is not a time for inflammatory statements.

We need to explain carefully and calmly to the Trump administration what the facts are.

This government is committed to working with international partners—not against them—to ensure investor confidence remains strong.

As the Minister responsible for this bill, I am also committed to ensuring that it is constitutional and that there will be no arbitrary land grabs by the state in South Africa.

Property rights are not only about protecting investments but also about ensuring that the rule of law is upheld in all sectors of society.

Now is the time for cool heads and rational decision-making.

What we do now will have real-life consequences for our country.”

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