

29<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Parliament of the Republic of South Africa**

**Public written comments**

**UPGRADING OF LAND TENURE RIGHTS AMENDMENT BILL (B6 - 2020)**

ATTENTION Ms Phumla Nyamza

**Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development**

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Dear Ms Nyamza

Thank you to the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa (SA) for the opportunity to make an input regards this crucial matter of SA land. In context, this is a matter of national importance and in our view, it is also a matter of regional / continental and even international significance.

May we set out and pass condolences to all people of SA who have lost loved ones from the Covid 19 global pandemic. We also wish a speedy recovery to all those who may have contracted the virus and are battling to rid themselves of this infectious pandemic.

In the entire history of SA since the first voyager settlers set foot on the shores of this land, indigenous people have suffered displacement and loss. The slave and colonial masters and subsequent architects of apartheid, ensured an endless and seemingly irreversible dispossession of land, minerals, water and variety other natural resources including forcefully taking their strength in labour. Virtually, all native communities suffered this fate. In almost 350 years, all forms of resistance to this white supremacist invasion resulted in death for many souls, and immeasurable misery for the rest of their own.

The present status quo of SA land ownership is undoubtedly as a result of this history. Sadly, this past stretches into the mental and spiritual space regards subjugation of the Black majority. It is high time that a new benevolence of consciousness in Africans awakes to heal these

wounds. Only through the use of land can such an end be achieved, and not just for the majority of poor and hungry citizens of the country but for the benefit and restoration of our prestige as a people.

We therefore are of the opinion that all historically entitled poor and marginalized Black people should be afforded use of the land and all necessary / requisite implements and material needs to get back and to work the land. In particular, priority should be given to all established groups and qualified individuals who have shown over time that they can ensure productive use of the land.

Our organization deals with many applications to access land for productive use. Many of them are bursary candidates studying agriculture and farming at higher learning institutions such as University of Stellenbosch, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, UNISA, Nelson Mandela Bay University, University of Pretoria and KZN University. Some of them are post-graduate students in their Masters and Ph.D years of study. All funded by AgriSETA, but lack of assistance to establish new farmers seems to be the general norm. These students broadly regarded as "farmers without land".

In essence, this means all efforts to amend / upgrade land tenure rights to ownership of land cannot eliminate potential farmers simply from their historical exclusion. We therefore call on the state to holistically relook at the past structure of land as was allocated during colonialism and apartheid, and to correct those imbalances in favour of capacity building, ending poverty and creating equality in SA. We hence would like to express our wish to be granted an opportunity to verbally present our view on this matter and those views of all our associates and parties allied to our vision.

We trust that this submission will add value to deliberations and decision making in respect of the matter at hand.

Yours sincerely



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