



THE LAND ISSUE, SOUTH AFRICA 2018

Since the African National Congress held its National Executive Committee meeting in December and a new leader was elected in Cyril Ramaphosa. There is to a very large degree a sense of hope germinating in South Africa, that we can reverse the ills of the past 8 years and move forward with the building of our great country.

Land is the subject that has caused the most debate, anger, frustration, fear, uncertainty, hope and a litany of other emotions in South Africa. Land will remain a political issue for years to come.

President Ramaphosa has announced that he will support and follow on with “land expropriation without compensation”. This does not mean it is now law, nor does it necessarily mean it will become law! Nor does it specify white owned farms. The motion is for all property, including urban properties.

The President has in the same breath stated the following:

“Food production and security must be preserved”

“It is critical for South Africans to engage and come up with proposals on the matter going forward”

“Burning issue of land reform must be handled with care”

“This will not be a smash and grab” situation “We will not allow it” (reference to the situation in Zimbabwe)

In addition there are processes to be followed. There will be public hearings so all parties can make inputs and recommendations, there will be further debates in parliament and then whatever has been decided upon will have to be tested against the SA constitution, which is one of the best in the world.

The “Bill of Rights” is enshrined in the SA constitution and our courts have maintained their integrity and we have no reason to doubt that our courts of law will continue to protect ALL citizens of the country.

It also needs to be taken into account that there is much unused land in the states hands. Some of this land is likely to be distributed. Municipalities too, hold much land that can be used for housing and large tracts of non utilized state land are held in trusts by “chiefs”. These are simple examples of land that can be taken and responsibly distributed for proper use. It is unlikely that productive commercial land will be targeted.

Let us continue to work towards creating a unified and constructive approach to an issue that must be addressed, in a manner that is positive and not sow the seeds of distrust and fear through assumption, for that will be far more damaging to our industry, the wildlife and all people of South Africa.

6th March 2018