



Land Digest **2017 No 1**

2017 has seen Bills being introduced into Parliament dealing with various land issues: “These land issues include: the Regulation of Agricultural Land Holdings Bill; the electronic Deeds Amendment Bill; the Extension of Security of Tenure Amendment Bill; the Communal Land Tenure Bill; the Communal Property Association Amendment Bill; the Land Valuation Regulations under the Property Valuation Act of 2014; the appointment of the Chief Directorate Labour Tenants and Farm Dwellers; and the Common Property Associations Amendment Bill.”¹

The Extension of Security of Tenure Amendment Bill, also known as ESTA, has been one of the key pieces of legislation regulating the relationship between farm or land owners, and those occupying the land as workers or tenants of one sort or another. Parliament and the Department of Land Affairs have been working on various amendments to ESTA, especially those dealing with matters such as ‘the definition of “family,” the substitution of “subsidies” with “tenure grants,” the maintenance of dwellings, the right to erect tombstones, and the provision for compulsory mediation before litigation,’² rights of access and so on.

For information on various submissions by the Human Rights Commission, the Public Protector, and various others articulating what they see as the need for changes to the ESTA, and the Bill itself, refer to: <https://pmg.org.za/bill/594/>

On 15th March, the Portfolio Committee on Rural Development and Land Reform adopted the revised version of the Bill. This should soon be put to the National Assembly for a vote.

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¹ <http://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-gugile-nkwinti-land-reform-matters-28-mar-2017-0000>

² <https://pmg.org.za/committee-meeting/21679/>