



CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT AMENDMENT BILL OF THE

(PIE) ACT 19 of 1998

PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL EVICTION FROM AND UNLAWFUL OCCUPATION OF LAND

Government recently approved the publication of the Prevention of Illegal Eviction from and Unlawful Occupation of Land Amendment Bill in the Government Gazette.

PIE Amendment Bill seeks to amend the Prevention of Illegal Eviction from and Unlawful Occupation of Land Act of 1998 (PIE Act) which was enacted to prevent random evictions and address historical injustices where people were removed from land without due process.

It also aims at reviewing and strengthening the laws governing illegal occupations and evictions. The Bill will culminate in the amendments that will strengthen PIE Act, to ensure it is effective, easier to understand and simpler to enforce.

The proposed amendment seeks to empower municipalities, state entities, and private property owners to respond more decisively to unlawful occupation of land, while simultaneously protecting the rights of the vulnerable groups. It will strengthen our ability to address individuals and organized groups who are responsible for orchestrating these invasions.

Some of the key proposals contained in the Bill, include the following:

- Introduction of additional offence - to include those who incite or organise illegal occupations, even where no money is exchanged.
- Imposing a fine of R2 million or imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or both on a person or individuals who incite people to unlawfully occupy land, irrespective of it being a building owned by government or private owner.
- A proposal that a court must order that all assets or money acquired using the proceeds of the said offences be forfeited.

- An expansion on the definition of "Person in Charge" to enable the municipalities to apply for urgent interdict even when it is not the owner of the land that is being invaded.
- That the court is also afforded a discretion to stipulate a period for which alternative accommodation or land must be made available to the unlawful occupier
- That a court that orders the eviction may make an order for retention or the demolition and removal of improvements or structures on the land

The Department of Human Settlements has allocated 60 days to the public to submit their comments.

The final date for submissions is 16 June 2026.

All South Africans, including, civil society organisations, and all interested parties can send their submissions to Lisa Masilo through the following:

Email: PIE.AmendmentBill@dhs.gov.za
Hand delivered at 240 Justice Mohammed, Sunnyside Pretoria, 0001
Post: Department of Human Settlements, Private Bag x 644, Pretoria

The PIE Amendment Bill is available on the DHS website: www.dhs.gov.za

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