

The Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land (PDAL) Bill [B8 - 2021]

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Parliament of South Africa is currently seeking public inputs on the Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land (PDAL) Bill [B8 – 2021]. The Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development of the National Assembly, in accordance with section 59 (1) of the Constitution, is actively encouraging public involvement regarding this Bill. Interested stakeholders are invited to provide their valuable comments and inputs on the PDAL Bill.

#### What is the purpose of the Bill?

The Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land (PDAL) Bill is a proposed law that wants to fix problems with another law called the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act No. 70 of 1970 (SALA). This Bill is important because it focuses on protecting and improving land used for farming.

Usually, we think of agricultural land as being in rural areas, like farms or communal land. But did you know that some cities also have special areas of land that were historically used for farming? These areas are called commonages. Sadly, a lot of this land has been lost or is in danger because cities are growing and taking up more space. This is a problem because this land could be used to help fight poverty and make sure people have enough food, especially in the city and nearby areas.

The PDAL Bill wants to find a way to balance the needs of using land for farming and other important matters like building houses and developing cities. It also wants to make sure that any land that is not being used well right now gets put to good use for farming again. By doing this, we can make sure that we have enough land for growing food and that it's used in the best way possible for everyone's benefit.

#### **Objectives of the Bill:**

#### The Bill:

- applies to all agricultural land in the country;
- proposes guidelines for managing agricultural land;
- evaluates and classifies agricultural land;
- creates plans for agriculture in each province;
- protects certain areas of land for farming;
- makes sure we take care of the environment and have guidelines for different activities in farming areas;
- sets up committees and advisors to help the Minister and other authorities;
- checks how well everything is working and makes improvements;
- creates a system to collect and manage information about farming;
- makes a way for people to appeal if they don't agree with something;
- provides for inspectors to make sure the guidelines are followed;
- gives the Minister the power to make guidelines and standards;
- has consequences for breaking the guidelines;
- makes changes to another law called the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Repeal Act; and
- seeks to take care of other important matters related to farming.



### Why is it important for you to participate?

When laws are made, it is important that the people's voices are heard. Public participation means that everyone gets a chance to share their thoughts and ideas about the law.

#### Why is Parliament asking for your input?

Parliament has a duty to involve the public in all its processes, including making laws. That's why the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development wants to hear from everyone who is interested or affected by the PDAL Bill.

#### Who must participate and how?

If the subject of the Bill impacts you or you have an interest in agriculture, land reform and rural development you can come and share your thoughts during the public hearings and speak directly to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development. This is known as making an oral submission.

Before the Bill was presented to Parliament, many government departments, municipalities, universities, and organisations were consulted to get their opinions, for example KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs; Agri South Africa (AGRI SA); Environmental Wild Trust and the University of the Free State.

### What happens after you give your input to the committee?

The committee will carefully review all public inputs received regarding the Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land (PDAL) Bill. Once the National Assembly has considered the Bill, it will be referred to the National Council of Provinces for further discussions and agreement. Following this, the Bill will be presented to the President for assent and signing, ultimately becoming an Act of Parliament.

For copies of the Bill and any further information you can contact the secretaries of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development at:



Mrs Albertina Kakaza (Committee Secretary)

Tel: 021 403 3765 Cell: 083 709 8391

Email: akakaza@parliament.gov.za



Phumla Nyamza (Committee Secretary)

Tel: 021 403 3852 083 709 8492

Email: pnyamza@parliament.gov.za

#### Did you?

The three levels of government (national, provincial, and local) should work together and help each other to provide people with a complete set of services. The South African Constitution says that these levels of government have to support and cooperate with each other. They also need to share information and coordinate their efforts to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Or visit Parliament's website at: www.parliament.gov.za

## Did You ?



- Parliament is the national law-making body of South Africa.
- Parliament comprises two Houses, namely the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).
- Bills are mainly introduced to Parliament by the Minister of the specific government department.
- Parliament is obliged by the Constitution to obtain views of the people before passing any bill.
- For the bill to be passed into law, the President needs to sign it (assent to it).



#### Submission guideline Start your submission with the full title of the topic or Bill. Date: Topic or Bill: Name of Committee: State whom the submission is from First and Surname State whether you have been nominated to represent an organisation Name of organisation (if nominated to represent an organisation) Your position in the organisation Aims of the organisation How many people belong to the organization? Provide contact details (Include a contact address, daytime telephone number and ID number. If for private reasons you do not wish these details to be made public, state this in your covering letter and leave it off the submission itself) Postal Address: Street Address: Province: Tel No: Cell No: F-Mail: State whether you wish to appear before the Committee Yes No Do you wish others to appear with you before the committee? If yes, please provide their full name(s) and surname(s) and their role(s) Name(s) and Surname(s) Role(s) State your concerns on the Bill or topic. Please support your views by examples. Provide recommendations/suggestions. Sum up or list the main points of your recommendations.

Who else supports you?

Name(s) and Surname(s)	Role

Please note that the information you are submitting will be processed as set out above and that by submitting this information, you consent to the processing of this information as required by the Protection of Personal Information Act No. 4 of 2013.



#### **PARLIAMENT**

OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Address: PO Box 15, Cape Town, 8000



Email: info@parliament.gov.za



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