

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**LAND COURT BILL**

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*(As introduced in the National Assembly (proposed section 75); explanatory  
summary of Bill published in Government Gazette No.      of      ) (The English text  
is the official text of the Bill)*  
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**(MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES)**

**[B — 2020]**

**BILL**

**To provide for the establishment of a Land Court and a Land Court of Appeal; to make provision for the administration of the courts and the judicial functions of the courts; to make provision for administrative and budgetary matters relating to the courts; to provide the courts with exclusive jurisdiction to adjudicate disputes arising from certain Acts of Parliament; to provide for referral by Court for mediation or arbitration in respect of certain matters; to amend certain laws relating to the adjudication of land matters by courts; and to provide for matters connected therewith.**

**PREAMBLE**

**NOTING THAT** section 25 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, which is enshrined in the Bill of Rights—

- (a) obliges the State to take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to foster conditions which enable citizens to gain access to land on an equitable basis; and
- (b) envisages the State taking legislative and other measures to achieve land, water and related reform, in order to redress the results of past racial discrimination;

**NOTING FURTHER** that section 7 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996—

- (a) proclaims that the Bill of Rights is a cornerstone of democracy in South Africa and that it enshrines the rights of all people in the country and affirms the values of human dignity, equality and freedom;
- (b) obliges the State to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights in the Bill of Rights;

**AND ALSO NOTING THAT** section 166(e) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, recognises courts established in terms of an Act of Parliament with a status similar to the High Court;

**AND RECOGNISING** that, with the advent of the democratic constitutional dispensation in 1994, South Africa inherited a fragmented, unequal and divisive dispensation relating to all aspects of land, which was derived from our colonial history and further structured to serve the segregation objectives of the apartheid dispensation;

**AND SINCE** land reform initiatives to address the destructive impact of colonialism and apartheid have not progressed at the desired pace, sometimes giving rise to expensive and protracted litigation, to the detriment of the poorest of the poor and most vulnerable in society;

**AND SINCE THEREFORE IT IS** necessary that land reform in its entirety be accelerated in a lawful and equitable manner, guided by progressive jurisprudence;

**AND SINCE IT IS FURTHERMORE** necessary and desirable that there should be specialised, well-resourced, accessible and streamlined adjudication structures in place with the institutional, transformative and social justice wherewithal in land matters, in order to enhance and promote fairness and equity at all stages of the adjudication processes before and during court proceedings;

**PARLIAMENT** of the Republic of South Africa enacts as follows:—

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**CHAPTER 1**  
**DEFINITIONS, PURPOSE AND OBJECTS**

**Definitions**

1. In this Act, unless the context indicates otherwise—

**"claim"** means—

- (a) any claim for restitution of a right in land lodged with the Commission in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No. 22 of 1994); or
- (b) any application lodged with the registrar of the Court for the purpose of claiming restitution of a right in land;

**"claimant"** means any person who has lodged a claim;

**"Commission"** means the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights established by section 4 of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No. 22 of 1994);

**"Constitution"** means the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996;

**"Court"** means the Land Court established by section 3;

**"dispute"** means a dispute arising from a matter in respect of which the Court has jurisdiction, and includes an alleged dispute;

**"Judicial Service Commission"** means the Judicial Service Commission contemplated in section 178 of the Constitution;

**"Land Court of Appeal"** means the Land Court of Appeal established by section 34;

**"Minister"** means the Cabinet member responsible for the administration of justice;

**"prescribed"** means prescribed by regulation;

**"President"** means the President of the Republic;

"**registrar**" means the registrar of the Court contemplated in section 11 and includes the assistant registrar;

"**Restitution of Land Rights Act**", means the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No. 22 of 1994);

"**rules**" means the applicable rules of Court;

"**Rules Board**" means the Rules Board for Courts of Law established by section 2 of the Rules Board for Courts of Law Act, 1985 (Act No. 107 of 1985);

"**Superior Courts Act**" means the Superior Courts Act, 2013, (Act No. 10 of 2013);  
and

"**this Act**" includes any regulation.

## **Purpose and objects of Act**

2. (1) The purpose of this Act is to enhance and promote the ideal of access to land on an equitable basis, promote land reform as a means of redressing the results of past discrimination and facilitate land justice.

(2) In fulfilling the purpose of this Act as contemplated in subsection (1), the objects of this Act are to—

- (a) establish a Court with jurisdiction to grant any order, appropriate relief or impose any sanction, as provided for in this Act or any other law that confers jurisdiction on the Court;
- (b) establish a Land Court of Appeal to hear and determine appeals emanating from the judgments and orders of the Court; and
- (c) provide for Court ordered mediation or arbitration.

## CHAPTER 2

### ESTABLISHMENT OF COURT

#### Establishment of Court

3. (1) The Land Court is hereby established as a court of law and equity.

(2) The Court —

- (a) is a High Court that has the authority, inherent powers and standing, in relation to matters under its jurisdiction, equal to that which a court of a Division of the High Court of South Africa has in terms of the Superior Courts Act in relation to matters under its jurisdiction;
- (b) is a court of record and all hearings in the Court must, except in so far as the Court may in special cases direct otherwise, be conducted in an open court; and
- (c) decisions ~~must be~~ are a matter of public record on the same basis as decisions of a High Court.

#### Composition of Court

4. (1) The Court consists of—

- (a) a Judge President; and
- (b) a Deputy Judge President; and

(c) so many other judges as may be determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria, and approved by the President.

(2) A hearing before the Court must be before a single judge, unless the Judge President of the Court decides to the contrary.

### **Seal of Court**

5. (1) The Court, for use as occasion may require, must have an official seal of a design determined by the President by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

(2) The registrar of the Court must keep custody of the official seal of the Court.

### **Seat of Court**

6. (1) (1) The seat of the Court is in Johannesburg, but whenever it appears to the Judge President that it is expedient or in the interests of justice to hold its sitting for the hearing of any matter at a place elsewhere than at the seat of the Court, it may hold such sitting at that place.

(2) The Court may sit in as many separate courts as the available judge may allow.

### **Jurisdiction of Court**

7. (1) Subject to the Constitution and section 42 of this Act, and except where this Act provides otherwise, the Court has exclusive jurisdiction in respect of

all matters that elsewhere in terms of this Act or in terms of any other law are to be determined by the Court.

(2) The Court has jurisdiction in the area of jurisdiction of each Division of the High Court.

(3) The Minister, after consultation with the Chief Justice for the purposes of adjudicating land disputes, by notice in the *Gazette*—

- (a) may define a specific area of jurisdiction of each Court, if the need so arises;
- (b) may increase or reduce the area of jurisdiction of each Court referred to in paragraph (a), when necessary to do so;
- (c) must appoint one or more places within the area of jurisdiction of the Court for the holding of sittings of the Court, other than the seat of each Division of the High Court, to make the Court accessible to the people; and
- (d) may withdraw or vary any notice made under this subsection.

### CHAPTER 3

#### JUDGES, OFFICERS AND ASSESSORS OF COURT

##### Appointment of judges of Court

8. (1) The President, acting on the advice of the Judicial Service Commission, must, subject to subsection (4), appoint a Judge President and a Deputy Judge President of the Court.

(2) The Deputy Judge President must act as Judge President of the Court whenever the Judge President is unable to do so for any reason.

(3) The President, acting on the advice of the Judicial Service Commission, and the Judge President of the Court may, subject to subsection (4), appoint as many judges as is necessary as judges of the Court.

(4) The Judge President, Deputy Judge President and judges of the Court—

- (a) must be judges of the High Court, at least half of whom at any given time, must, as far as is practicable, have been judges at the time they were appointed to the Court;
- (b) by reason of their training and experience, have expertise in the field of land rights matters; and
- (c) be representative in terms of race and gender.

(5) In case of a vacancy in the office of the Judge President, Deputy Judge President or a judge of the Court, or if there is sufficient reason for the appointment of an acting judge, the Minister may, after consultation with the Judge President of the Court, and in accordance with section 175(2) of the Constitution, appoint an acting judge of the Court for such term as the Minister may determine.

### **Tenure, remuneration and terms and conditions of appointment of judges**

9. (1) For purposes of this section "judge" includes the Judge President and Deputy Judge President of the Court.

(2) A judge of the Court holds office until discharged from active service in terms of the Judges' Remuneration and Conditions of Employment Act, 2001 (Act No. 47 of 2001).

(3) A judge of the Court who is also a judge of the High Court may resign as a judge of the Court by giving written notice to the President.

(4) Neither the tenure of office nor the remuneration and terms and conditions of appointment applicable to a judge of the High Court in terms of the Judges' Remuneration and Conditions of Employment Act, 2001, is affected by that judge's appointment and concurrent tenure of office as a judge of the Court.

(5) Despite the expiry of the period of a person's appointment as a judge of the Court in terms of section 4(1)(c), that judge may continue to perform the functions of a judge of that Court, and must be regarded as such in all respects, only—

- (a) for the purposes of disposing of any proceedings in which that person has taken part as a judge of that Court and which are still pending upon the expiry of that person's appointment or which, having been so disposed of before or after the expiry of that person's appointment, have been reopened; and
- (b) for as long as that person is necessarily engaged in connection with the disposal of the proceedings so pending or reopened.

(6) The provisions of subsections (4) and (5), read with the changes required by the context, apply to acting judges appointed in terms of section 8(5).

**No process to be issued against Judge President, Deputy Judge President or judge of Court except with consent of court**

**10.** (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any law, no summons or subpoena against the Judge President, Deputy Judge President or any other judge of the Court may in any civil action be issued out of any other court

without the consent of such court: Provided that no such summons or subpoena may be issued out of a lower court unless a Division of the High Court which has jurisdiction to hear and determine an appeal in a civil action from such lower court, has consented thereto.

(2) Where the issuing of a summons or subpoena against a Judge President, Deputy Judge President or any other judge of the Court to appear in a civil action has been consented to, the date upon which such Judge President, Deputy Judge President or judge must attend court must be determined in consultation with the Judge President of the Court or, in case of the Judge President, with the Chief Justice.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1) **'lower court'** means any court, other than the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court of Appeal or a Division of the High Court, which is required to keep a record of its proceedings, and includes a court of a regional division and a magistrate's court established in terms of the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944 (Act No. 32 of 1944).

### **Appointment of officers and staff**

11. (1) (a) Subject to paragraph (b), the Minister must appoint for the Court a court manager, one or more assistant court managers if necessary, a registrar, one or more assistant registrars, if necessary and other officers and staff whenever they may be required for the administration of justice or the execution of the powers and authorities of the Court.

(b) Any appointment by the Minister in terms of paragraph (a) must be made in—

- (i) consultation with the Judge President of the Court; and
- (ii) accordance with the laws governing the public service.

(c) A court manager is the senior executive officer of the Court, and exercises administrative control over other persons referred to in paragraph (a), and, under the control and direction of the Judge President of the Court performs such other functions as may be determined by the Secretary-General of the Office of the Chief Justice and the Chief Justice.

(2) Whenever by reason of absence or incapacity an official referred to in subsection (1) is unable to carry out the functions of his or her office, or if his or her office becomes vacant, the Minister may, after consultation with the Judge President of the Court, authorise any other competent officer in the public service to act in the place of the absent or incapacitated officer during such absence or incapacity, or to act in the vacant office until the vacancy is filled.

(3) Any person appointed under subsection (1) may hold more than one of the offices mentioned in that subsection, simultaneously.

(4) The Minister may delegate any of the powers vested in him or her under this section to the Secretary-General of the Office of the Chief Justice.

### **Appointment of assessors**

**12.** (1) The Court may, when adjudicating on any matter in terms of this Act, sit with, or without assessors in accordance with the provisions of this section: Provided that not more than two assessors may be appointed in any matter.

(2) The assessors contemplated in subsection (1) must be appointed in the prescribed manner.

(3) No assessor may hear any evidence unless he or she first takes the prescribed oath or affirmation, administered by the judge.

(4) An assessor who takes an oath or makes an affirmation under subsection (3) is a member of the Court: Provided that—

(a) subject to the provisions of paragraph (b) of this proviso, the decision or finding of the majority of the members of the Court upon any question of fact is the decision or finding of the Court, except when the judge or judges sit with only one assessor, in which case the decision or finding of the judge or judges is, in the case of a difference of opinion between the assessor on the one hand and the judge or judges on the other, the decision or finding of the Court; and

(b) the judge or judges alone decide on any question of law or upon any question whether any matter constitutes a question of law or a question of fact, and the judge or judges may, for this purpose, sit alone.

(5) If an assessor dies or, in the opinion of the judge or judges, becomes unable to act as assessor at any time, the judge or judges may direct that the matter—

(a) be proceeded with before the remaining member or members of the Court; or

(b) starts afresh and, for that purpose, may summon an assessor in the place of the assessor who has died or has become unavailable to act as assessor.

(6) If an assessor is not in the full-time employment of the State, he or she is entitled to such fees as prescribed.

**CHAPTER 4**  
**COURT PROCEEDINGS**

***Part 1***

***Institution of proceedings in Court***

**Institution of proceedings**

- 13.** (1) Proceedings under this Act may be instituted by—
- (a) the Commission;
  - (b) any person acting in his or her own interest;
  - (c) any person acting on behalf of another person who cannot act in his or her own name;
  - (d) any person acting as a member of, or in the interests of, a group or class of persons;
  - (e) any person acting in the public interest; or
  - (f) any association acting in the interests of its members.

(2) A person wishing to institute proceedings in terms of or under this Act must, in the prescribed manner, notify the registrar of his or her intention to do so.

(3) (a) The registrar must, in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed period of receiving such notification, refer the matter to the Judge President of the Court, who must, within the prescribed period, decide whether the matter is to be heard in the Court or whether it should be referred for—

- (i) mediation in terms of section 31 of this Act; or

(ii) arbitration in terms of section 32 of this Act,

which, in the Judge President's opinion, can deal more appropriately with the matter.

(b) If the Judge President decides that the matter is to be heard in the Court, he or she must refer the matter to the registrar who must within the prescribed period of such referral assign a date of hearing of the matter.

(4) The Judge President, before making a decision to refer a matter as contemplated in subsection (3)(a), must take all relevant circumstances into consideration, including the following:

- (a) If mediation or arbitration in terms of any legislation took place before the institution of proceedings in the Court and the outcome thereof;
- (b) the personal circumstances of the parties;
- (c) the needs and relief sought by the parties; and
- (d) the nature of the intended proceedings and whether the outcome of the proceedings could facilitate the development of judicial precedent and jurisprudence in this area of the law.

(5) The Judge President may delegate any of the powers vested in him or her under this section to the Deputy Judge President or any other judge of the Court.

## ***Part 2***

### ***Rules and procedure***

#### **Rules governing procedure of Court**

**14.** (1) Except as is otherwise provided for in this Act, the provisions of the Superior Courts Act, and of the Rules regulating the conduct of the proceedings

of the several provincial and local divisions of the High Court of South Africa made under the Rules Board for Courts of Law Act, 1985 (Act No. 107 of 1985) and published by Government Notice R. 48 of 12 January 1965 as amended, apply with the necessary changes required by the context to the Court in so far as these provisions relate to—

- (a) the circumstances under which opinion and oral evidence may be submitted to the Court;
- (b) the suspension or execution of judgments, orders or sentences of the Court pending applications, or petitions for leave to appeal and the prosecution of appeals;
- (c) the manner and circumstances under which a judgement by default contemplated in section 18 of this Act can be made; and
- (d) generally, any matter which may be necessary or useful to be regulated for the proper despatch and conduct of the functions of the Court,

and in so far as no other provision has been made in the regulations under section 53 of this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act or in the rules contemplated in subsection (1), the Court may conduct any part of any proceedings on an informal or inquisitorial basis.

(3) The rules contemplated in subsection (1) must facilitate the expeditious handling of disputes and the minimisation of costs involved.

## **Powers and functions of Court under other legislation**

15. The provisions of this Act regulating the procedures, powers and functions of the Court apply, with the necessary changes required by the context, to the performance by the Court of its powers and functions in terms of any other law in respect of which it has jurisdiction, unless such application is excluded expressly or by necessary implication.

## **Intervention to proceedings before Court, right to appear and legal representation**

16. (1) Any interested person, including an organisation, may apply to the Court for leave to intervene as a party to any proceedings before the Court.

(2) The State has the right to intervene as a party to all proceedings before the Court.

(3) Any party appearing before the Court may do so in person or may be represented by a legal practitioner as contemplated in the Legal Practice Act, 2014 (Act No. 28 of 2014), of his or her own choice and at his or her own expense.

(4) (a) Where a party involved in a matter before the Court is not represented by a legal representative cannot afford to pay for legal representation, and the Court is of the opinion that it would be in the best interests of the party to have legal representation, the Court must refer the matter to Legal Aid South Africa referred to in section 2 of the Legal Aid South Africa Act, 2014 (Act No. 39 of 2014).

(b) Legal Aid South Africa must deal with a matter referred to in paragraph (a) in accordance with section 4(1)(f) of the Legal Aid South Africa Act,

2014, to provide legal representation at State expense, where substantial injustice would otherwise result.

(c) Expenditure in connection with the implementation and application of paragraph (a) must be defrayed from money appropriated by Parliament for this purpose and monies appropriated by Parliament for this purpose constitute earmarked funds on the vote of Legal Aid South Africa, and may not be used by for any other purpose.

### **Powers of Court on hearing of appeals**

17. The Court, at the hearing of any appeal in terms of any law conferring upon it any appellate jurisdiction, has the power—

- (a) to receive further evidence;
- (b) to remit the case to the court or other tribunal of first instance or to an arbitrator, for further hearing, with such instructions as regards the taking of further evidence or otherwise as the Court considers necessary; or
- (c) to confirm, amend or set aside the judgment, order or decision which is the subject matter of the appeal and to give any judgment, order or decision which the circumstances may require,

unless such law provides otherwise.

## **Judgment by default**

18. A judgment by default may be granted by the Court in the manner and in the circumstances determined in the rules: Provided that the Court must be satisfied that there was proper service of the process by which the case was initiated.

## ***Part 3***

### ***Witnesses and evidence***

#### **Witnesses**

19. (1) The registrar must, in the prescribed manner, and on the prescribed form subpoena a person to appear as a witness in a matter before the Court to give evidence or to produce a book, document, written instrument or any item on request by—

- (a) the judge in the matter;
- (b) a person whose rights may be affected by an order that may be made by the Court in those proceedings; or
- (c) the legal practitioner of a person referred to in paragraph (b).

(2) Sections 35(2), (3), (4) and (5), and 36 of the Superior Courts Act, read with such changes as the context may require, apply to a person who has been subpoenaed in terms of subsection (1) or required by the judge to give evidence.

(3) A person subpoenaed in terms of subsection (1) and who complied with the subpoena, is entitled to an allowance from state funds as contemplated in section 20.

### **Witness fees**

**20.** (1) A witness in any proceedings of the Court and any person who accompanies any such witness on account of the youth or infirmity of such witness, must be paid such allowances as may be prescribed in terms of section 42 of the Supreme Court Act, 1959 (Act No. 59 of 1959).

(2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other law, the Court may order that no allowances or only a portion of the prescribed allowances must be paid to any witness.

### **Examination by interrogatories of persons whose evidence is required in proceedings before Court**

**21.** (1) (a) For purposes of this section "Commissioner of the Court" means every person duly appointed as a commissioner of any Division of the High Court of South Africa for taking affidavits in any place outside the Republic and must, by virtue of such appointment—

- (i) become a commissioner of the said High Court; and,
- (ii) as such, be entitled to be enrolled by the registrar of every other division as a commissioner thereof.

(b) For the purpose of facilitating such enrolment the registrar of each division must transmit the names of those who are appointed as commissioners of such division, as well as their respective addresses, to the registrars of all the other divisions: Provided that no person residing within the Republic must hereafter be appointed as such commissioner.

(2) The Court may, in connection with any proceedings pending before it, order that the evidence of a person who resides or is for the time being outside the area of jurisdiction of the Court, be taken by means of interrogatories.

(3) Whenever an order is made under subsection (2), the registrar of the Court must certify that fact and transmit a copy of his or her certificate to a Commissioner of the Court contemplated in subsection (1), together with any interrogatories duly and lawfully framed which it is desired to put to the said person and the fees and the amount of the expenses payable to the said person for his or her appearance as hereinafter provided.

(4) Upon receipt of the aforesaid certificate and of the interrogatories and amounts aforesaid, the Commissioner of Court must—

- (a) summon the said person to appear before him or her, and upon his or her appearance must take his or her evidence as if he or she were a witness in proceedings before the Court;
- (b) put to him or her the interrogatories aforesaid with any other questions calculated to obtain full and true answers to the said interrogatories;
- (c) take down or cause to be taken down the evidence so obtained; and
- (d) transmit the same, certified as correct, to the registrar of the Court.

(5) The Commissioner of Court must further transmit to the said registrar a certificate showing the amount paid to the person concerned in respect of

the expenses of his or her appearance, and the cost of the issue and service of the process for summoning such person before him or her.

(6) Any person summoned to appear as provided in this section who, without reasonable excuse, fails to appear at the time and place mentioned in the summons, is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

(7) Any interrogatories taken and certified under this section, must, subject to all lawful exceptions, be received as evidence in the aforesaid proceedings.

### **Admissibility of evidence**

**22.** (1) The Court may admit evidence, including oral evidence, which it considers relevant and cogent to the matter being heard by it, whether or not such evidence would be admissible in any other court of law.

(2) Without derogating from the generality of subsection (1), it is competent for any party before the Court to adduce—

- (a) hearsay evidence regarding the circumstances surrounding the dispossession of a land right or rights and the rules governing the allocation and occupation of land within a claimant community at the time of such dispossession; and
- (b) expert evidence regarding the historical and anthropological facts relevant to any particular land claim.

(3) The Court must give such weight to any evidence adduced in terms of subsections (1) and (2) as it deems appropriate.

(4) Whenever a judgment, order or other record of the Court is required to be proved or inspected or referred to in any manner, a copy of such judgment, order or other record duly certified as such by the registrar of the Court under its seal is *prima facie* evidence thereof without proof of the authenticity of such registrar's signature.

#### ***Part 4***

#### ***Processes of Court***

#### **Scope and execution of process of Court**

**23.** (1) The process of the Court runs throughout the Republic and its sentences, rulings, judgments, writs, summonses, orders, warrants, commands and other processes, excluding a subpoena referred to in section 19 of this Act, must be executed in any area in like manner as if they were processes of the Provincial Division of the High Court having jurisdiction in such area.

(2) A sheriff or a deputy sheriff of the High Court appointed for the area in which any process is to be served, must execute all sentences, rulings, judgments, writs, summonses, orders, warrants, commands and other processes of the Court directed to him or her and any reference in this Act to a sheriff or a deputy sheriff is deemed to be a reference to a sheriff or deputy sheriff of the Provincial Division of the High Court acting in terms of this section.

(3) A sheriff or deputy sheriff performing his or her duties in terms of this Act has all the powers and rights and is subject to all the obligations and duties

applicable to the execution by such sheriff or deputy sheriff of the process of the Provincial Division of the High Court for which he or she is appointed.

(4) The return of a sheriff or a deputy sheriff of what has been done in connection with any process of the Court is *prima facie* evidence of the matters therein stated.

(5) A refusal by the sheriff or any deputy sheriff to do any act which he or she is, in terms of this Act, empowered or obliged to do, is subject to review by the Court on application *ex parte* or on notice as the circumstances may require.

(6) Any warrant or other process for the execution of a judgment given or order issued against any association of persons, corporate or unincorporated, partnership or firm may be executed by attachment of the property or assets of such association, partnership or firm.

### **Offences relating to execution**

**24.** Any person who commits any conduct referred to in section 46 of the Superior Courts Act, in relation to the execution by a sheriff or deputy sheriff of his or her duties in terms of this Act, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year.

## ***Part 5***

### ***Powers, functions, orders and costs of Court***

#### **Powers of Court**

- 25.** (1) Subject to Chapter 8 of the Constitution, the Court has—
- (a) all such powers in relation to matters falling within its jurisdiction as are possessed by a Division of the High Court having jurisdiction in civil proceedings at the place where the land in question is situated, including the powers of the High Court in relation to any contempt of the Court;
  - (b) all the ancillary powers necessary or reasonably incidental to the performance of its functions, including the power to grant interlocutory orders and interdicts; and
  - (c) the power to decide any issue in terms of any other law, which is not ordinarily within its jurisdiction but is incidental to an issue within its jurisdiction, if the Court considers it to be in the interests of justice to do so.

(2) (a) The Court, of its own accord or, at the request of any party to the proceedings before it may reserve for the decision of the Land Court of Appeal any question of law that arises in those proceedings.

(b) A question may be reserved only if it is decisive for the proper adjudication of the dispute.

(c) Pending the decision of the Land Court of Appeal on any question of law reserved in terms of paragraph (a), the Court may make any interim order.

(3) A judgment of the Court must be handed down as soon as reasonably possible.

### **Referral of particular matters for investigation by referee**

**26.** (1) In any proceedings before the Court, the Court may at any stage refer—

(a) any matter which requires extensive examination of documents or scientific, technical or local investigation which cannot be conveniently conducted by the Court;

(b) any matter which relates wholly or in part to accounts; or

(c) any other matter arising in such proceedings,

for enquiry and report to a referee appointed by the parties, and the Court may adopt the report of any such referee, either wholly or in part, and either with or without modifications, or may remit such report for further enquiry or report or consideration by such referee, or make such other order in regard thereto as may be necessary or desirable.

(2) The Court may, after hearing such evidence or arguments as may be adduced or presented by the parties—

(a) adopt the report of any such referee, either wholly or in part, and either with or without modifications;

(b) remit such report for further enquiry or report or consideration by such referee; or

(c) make any other order in regard thereto as may be necessary or desirable.

(3) Any such report or any part thereof which is adopted by the Court, whether with or without modifications, has effect as if it were a finding by the Court in the proceedings in question.

(4) Any such referee has, for the purpose of such enquiry, such powers and must conduct the enquiry in such manner as may be determined by a special order of court or by the rules of the Court.

(5) For the purpose of procuring the attendance of any witness, including any witness detained in custody under any law, and the production of any document or thing before a referee, an enquiry under this section is deemed to be civil proceedings.

(6) Any person summoned to appear and give evidence or produce any book, document, written instrument or any item before a referee, and who, without sufficient cause—

- (a) fails to attend at the time and place specified or to remain in attendance until the conclusion of the enquiry or until he or she is excused by the referee from further attendance;
- (b) refuses to be sworn or to make affirmation as a witness;
- (c) having been sworn or having made affirmation as a witness, fails, without just excuse, to answer fully and satisfactorily any question put to him or her;
- (d) fails to produce any book, document, written instrument or any item in his or her possession or custody or under his or her control which he or she was summoned to produce,

is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction either by the Court by way of the procedures set out in section 19(2) or by a criminal court having jurisdiction, to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

(7) Any person who, after having been sworn or having made affirmation, gives false evidence before a referee at any enquiry, knowing such evidence to be false or not knowing or believing it to be true, is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to the penalties prescribed by law for perjury.

(8) Any referee is entitled to such fees as may be determined by the rules or, if no such fees have been so determined, to such fees as the Court may

determine and to any reasonable expenditure incurred by him or her for the purposes of the enquiry, and any such fees and expenditure must be taxed by the taxing master of the Court and must be costs in the cause: Provided that the Court may order the State to pay the said fees and expenditure.

### **Pre-trial conference**

**27.** (1) The Court may, at its own instance or at the request of any party before it, at any stage prior to the hearing of a matter convene a pre-trial conference of the parties with a view to—

- (a) clarifying the issues in dispute;
- (b) identifying those issues on which evidence will be necessary; and
- (c) in general, expediting a decision on the matter in question.

(2) The Court may, after the holding of such a pre-trial conference, issue such orders and directions as to the procedure to be followed before and during the trial as it deems appropriate.

### **Court orders**

**28.** (1) The Court may make any appropriate order, including—

- (a) the grant of urgent interim relief;
- (b) an interdict;
- (c) an order directing the performance of any particular act which order, when implemented, will remedy a wrong and give effect to the primary objects of this Act;

- (d) a declaratory order;
- (e) an award of damages in any circumstances contemplated in this Act;
- (f) an order for costs;
- (g) make any arbitration award or any settlement agreement an order of the Court; or
- (h) request the Commission to conduct an investigation to assist the Court and to submit a report to the Court.

(2) If at any stage after a dispute has been referred to the Court, it becomes apparent that the dispute ought to have been referred to mediation or arbitration, the Court may, if the Judge President did not make an order contemplated in section 13(3)(a) stay the proceedings and refer the dispute to mediation or arbitration in terms of sections 31 and 32 of this Act.

(3) The Court may in addition to subsection (1) make an order—

- (a) for the restoration of land, a portion of land or any right in land in respect of which the claim or any other claim is made to the claimant or award any land, a portion of or a right in land to the claimant in full or in partial settlement of the claim and, where necessary, the prior acquisition or expropriation of the land, portion of land or right in land: Provided that the claimant must not be awarded land, a portion of land or a right in land dispossessed from another claimant or the latter's ascendant, unless—
  - (i) such other claimant is or has been granted restitution of a right in land or has waived his or her right to restoration of the right in land concerned; or
  - (ii) the Court is satisfied that satisfactory arrangements have been or will be made to grant such other claimant restitution of a right in land;

- (b) for the State to grant the claimant an appropriate right in alternative state owned land and, where necessary, order the State to designate it;
- (c) for the State to pay the claimant compensation;
- (d) for the State to include the claimant as a beneficiary of a State support programme for housing or the allocation and development of rural land;
- (e) for the grant to the claimant of any alternative relief;
- (f) to determine conditions which must be fulfilled before a right in land can be restored or granted to a claimant;
- (g) if a claimant is required to make any payment before the right in question is restored or granted, to determine the amount to be paid and the manner of payment, including the time for payment;
- (h) if the claimant is a community, to determine the manner in which the rights are to be held or the compensation is to be paid or held;
- (i) or give any other directive as to how its orders are to be carried out, including the setting of time limits for the implementation of its orders;
- (j) in respect of compensatory land granted at the time of the dispossession of the land in question;
- (k) to give effect to any agreement between the parties regarding the finalisation of the claim; and
- (l) for costs as it deems just, including an order for costs against the State or the Commission.

(4) An order contemplated in subsection (3)(c) must be subject to such conditions as the Court considers necessary to ensure that all the members of the dispossessed community must have access to the land or the compensation in question, on a basis which is fair and non-discriminatory towards any person,

including a tenant, and which ensures the accountability of the person who holds the land or compensation on behalf of the community to the members of such community.

(5) The Court's power to order the restitution of a right in land or to grant a right in alternative state owned land must include the power to adjust the nature of the right previously held by the claimant, and to determine the form of title under which the right may be held in future.

(6) In making any award of land, the Court may direct that the rights of individuals to that land must be determined in accordance with the procedures set out in the Distribution and Transfer of Certain State Land Act, 1993 (Act No. 119 of 1993).

(7) An order of the Court has the same force as an order of a court for the purposes of the Deeds Registries Act, 1937 (Act No. 47 of 1937).

(8) Any state owned land contemplated in the Restitution of Land Rights Act, which is held under a lease or similar arrangement is be deemed to be in the possession of the State for the purposes of subsection (1)(a): Provided that, if the Court orders the restoration of a right in such land, the lawful occupier thereof is entitled to just and equitable compensation determined either by agreement or by the Court.

(9) An interested party who is of the opinion that an order of the Court has not been fully or timeously complied with may make application to the Court for further directives or orders in that regard.

### **Variation and rescission of orders of Court**

**29.** The Court, acting of its own accord or on the application of any affected party may vary or rescind a decision, judgment or order—

- (a) erroneously sought or erroneously granted in the absence of any party affected by that judgment or order;
- (b) in which there is an ambiguity, or an obvious error or omission, but only to the extent of that ambiguity, error or omission; or
- (c) granted as a result of a mistake common to the parties to the proceedings.

### **Costs**

**30.** (1) The Court may make an order for the payment of costs, according to the requirements of the law and fairness.

(2) When deciding whether or not to order the payment of costs, the Court may take into account—

- (a) whether the matter referred to the Court ought to have been referred to mediation or arbitration, and, if so, the extra costs incurred in bringing the matter to the Court directly; and
- (b) the conduct of the parties—
  - (i) in proceeding with or defending the matter before the Court; and
  - (ii) during the proceedings before the Court.

(3) The Court may order costs against a party to the dispute or against any person who represented that party in those proceedings before the Court.

**Part 6*****Mediation, arbitration and setting of matters*****Mediation**

**31.** (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 13(3)(a)(i) of this Act, if, at any stage during proceedings, but prior to judgment, it becomes evident to the Court that there is any issue which might be resolved through mediation, the Court may make an order—

- (a) directing the parties, to attempt to settle the issue through a process of mediation; and
- (b) that such proceedings be stayed pending such process.

(2) (a) If the Judge President, or the Court decides that the matter must be referred for mediation, as contemplated in section 13(3)(a)(i), he or she must make an order—

- (i) directing the registrar to transfer the matter in the prescribed manner to the mediator contemplated in subparagraph (iii);
- (ii) specifying the time, date and the place where such process is to start; and
- (iii) appointing a fit and proper person as mediator to chair the first meeting between the parties: Provided that the parties may at any time during the course of mediation, by agreement, appoint another person to mediate the dispute.

(b) When making an order contemplated in paragraph (a) the Judge President, or the Court may attach to the order any comments he or she deems necessary for the attention of the mediator.

(3) On receipt of an order referred to in subsection (2), the registrar must transfer the matter and notify the parties to the matter of the transfer in the prescribed manner.

(4) On receipt of a matter, the mediator, must deal with the matter expeditiously in terms of his or her powers and functions as prescribed.

(5) If—

(a) the parties to the mediation are not able to resolve the matter to the satisfaction of all the parties; or

(b) one or more of the parties to the mediation so request,

the mediator must, in the prescribed manner, refer the matter back to the Court for adjudication.

(6) A mediator appointed in terms of subsection (2)(a)(iii), who is not in the full-time service of the State may be paid such remuneration and allowances as prescribed.

(7) All discussions taking place and all disclosures and submissions made during the mediation process are privileged, unless the parties agree to the contrary.

(8) The Court may make the agreement reached between the parties, an order of the Court with or without such technical variations as may be appropriate.

(9) If the Court proposes to make any technical variation to the agreement, it must give the parties to the proceedings in the prescribed manner notice of such intention, and before making such variation, it must receive and consider any comments from the parties.

(10) Nothing in this section contained must be construed as preventing the Court from directing the parties to attempt to resolve the issue or dispute through other processes as provided for in this Act.

## **Arbitration**

**32.** (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 13(3)(a)(ii) of this Act, if, at any stage during proceedings, but prior to judgment, it becomes evident to the Court that there is any issue which might be resolved through arbitration, the Court may make an order that—

- (a) the dispute be settled through a process of arbitration, in the prescribed manner; and
- (b) such proceedings be stayed pending such process.

(2) (a) If the Judge President, or the Court decides that the matter must be referred for arbitration, as contemplated in section 13(3)(a)(ii), he or she must make an order—

- (i) directing the registrar to transfer the matter in the prescribed manner to the arbitrator contemplated in subparagraph (iii);
- (ii) specifying the time, date and the place where such process is to start; and
- (iii) appointing a fit and proper person as arbitrator to chair the first meeting between the parties: Provided that the parties may at any time during the course of the arbitration, by agreement, appoint another person as arbitrator.

(b) When making an order contemplated in paragraph (a) the Judge President, or the Court may attach to the order any comments he or she deems necessary for the attention of the arbitrator.

(3) On receipt of an order referred to in subsection (2), the registrar must transfer the matter and notify the parties to the matter of the transfer in the prescribed manner.

(4) The remuneration and powers and functions of an arbitrator, are as prescribed.

(5) Any party to an arbitration may apply to the Court at any time in the prescribed manner to—

(a) stop the arbitration process and to proceed in the Court; or

(b) vary or set aside a settlement agreement,

which the Court may do on good cause shown.

(6) (a) If any party to an arbitration agreement commences proceedings in the Court against any other party to that agreement about any matter that the parties agreed to refer to arbitration, any party to those proceedings may ask the Court—

(i) to stay those proceedings and refer the dispute to arbitration; or

(ii) with the consent of the parties and where it is expedient to do so, continue with the proceedings with the Court acting as arbitrator, in which case the Court may only make an order corresponding with the award that an arbitrator could have made.

(b) If the Court is satisfied that there is sufficient reason for the dispute to be referred to arbitration in accordance with the arbitration agreement, the Court may stay those proceedings, on any conditions it deems fit.

(7) An arbitration award issued by an arbitrator is final and binding and it may be enforced as if it were an order of the Court in respect of which a writ has been issued.

(8) If a party fails to comply with an arbitration award that orders the performance of an act, other than the payment of an amount of money, any other party to the award may, without further order, enforce it by way of contempt proceedings instituted in the Court.

(9) Any party to a dispute who alleges a defect in any arbitration proceedings under the auspices of the arbitrator, may apply to the Court in the prescribed manner, for an order setting aside the arbitration award.

(10) The provisions of the Arbitration Act, 1965 (Act No. 42 of 1965) apply insofar as an arbitration is not specifically regulated in terms of this Act.

### **Settling of matters out of Court**

**33.** (1) If a matter is settled out of Court, either by means of negotiation, mediation or arbitration and the settlement is accepted by all parties involved in the matter, the registrar of the Court must submit the settlement to the Court for confirmation or rejection.

- (2) The Court must consider the settlement and may—
- (a) confirm the settlement and make it an order of the Court;
  - (b) before deciding the matter, refer the settlement back to the parties for reconsideration of any specific issues; or
  - (c) reject the settlement.
- (3) If a settlement is rejected, the matter must proceed in the Court.

**CHAPTER 5**  
**LAND COURT OF APPEAL**

***Part 1***

***Establishment, composition, appointment of judges, tenure of judges, officers,  
seal and seat of Land Court of Appeal***

**Establishment and status of Land Court of Appeal**

34. (1) The Land Court of Appeal is hereby established as a court of law and equity.

(2) The Land Court of Appeal is, except for the Constitutional Court, the final court of appeal in respect of all judgments and orders made by the Court in respect of the matters within its exclusive jurisdiction.

(3) The Land Court of Appeal is a superior court that has authority, inherent powers and standing, in relation to matters under its jurisdiction, equal to that which the Supreme Court of Appeal has in relation to matters under its jurisdiction.

(4) The Land Court of Appeal is a court of record.

**Composition of Land Court of Appeal**

35. (1) The Land Court of Appeal consists of—
- (a) a President of the Land Court of Appeal;
  - (b) a Deputy President of the Land Court of Appeal; and

(c) as many judges as the President may consider necessary.

(2) The Land Court of Appeal is constituted before any three judges who the President of the Land Court of Appeal designates from the panel of judges contemplated in subsection (1)(c).

(3) No judge of the Land Court of Appeal may sit in the hearing of an appeal against a judgment or an order given in a case that was heard before that judge.

### **Appointment of other judges of Land Court of Appeal**

**36.** (1) The President, acting on the advice of the Judicial Service Commission and after consultation with the Minister, must appoint a President and a Deputy President of the Land Court of Appeal, who may be judges of the Supreme Court of Appeal.

(2) The Deputy President must act as President of the Land Court of Appeal whenever the President is unable to do so for any reason.

(3) The President, acting on the advice of the Judicial Service Commission, after consultation with the Minister, the Chief Justice and the President of the Land Court of Appeal, must appoint the judges of the Land Court of Appeal.

(4) The Minister, after consultation with the Chief Justice and the President of the Land Court of Appeal, may appoint one or more judges of the Court or High Court to serve as acting judges of the Land Court of Appeal.

### **Tenure, remuneration and terms and conditions of appointment of Land Court of Appeal judges**

**37.** (1) A judge of the Land Court of Appeal must be appointed for a fixed term determined by the President at the time of appointment.

(2) A judge of the Land Court of Appeal may resign from that office by giving written notice to the President.

(3) (a) A judge of the Land Court of Appeal holds office until—

- (i) the judge's term of office in the Land Court of Appeal ends;
- (ii) the judge's resignation takes effect;
- (iii) the judge is removed from office; or
- (iv) the judge dies.

(b) The President and the Deputy President of the Land Court of Appeal hold their offices for as long as they hold their respective offices of Judge President and Deputy Judge President of the Court.

(4) Neither the tenure of office nor the remuneration and terms and conditions of appointment applicable to a judge of the High Court in terms of the Judges' Remuneration and Conditions of Employment Act, 2001, is affected by that judge's appointment and concurrent tenure of office as a judge of the Land Court of Appeal.

### **Officers of Land Court of Appeal**

**38.** (1) (a) Subject to paragraph (b), the Minister must appoint for the Land Court of Appeal a registrar or one or more assistant registrars, if necessary.

(b) Any appointment by the Minister in terms of paragraph (a) must be made—

- (i) in consultation with the President of the Land Court of Appeal; and
- (ii) in accordance with the laws governing the public service.

(2) Each of the other officers of the Court also hold the corresponding office in relation to the Land Court of Appeal.

(3) (a) The officers referred to in subsection (2) must, under the supervision and control of the registrar of the Land Court of Appeal, perform the administrative functions of the Land Court of Appeal.

(b) An assistant registrar of the Land Court of Appeal may perform any of the functions of the registrar of that Court that have been delegated generally or specifically to the assistant registrar.

(4) The assistant registrar of the Land Court of Appeal or, if there is more than one, the most senior must act as registrar of the Land Court of Appeal whenever—

- (a) the registrar is absent from the Republic or from duty, or for any reason is temporarily unable to perform the functions of registrar; or
- (b) the office of registrar is vacant.

(5) The Minister may delegate any of the powers vested in him or her under this section to the Secretary-General of the Office of the Chief Justice.

### **Seal of Land Court of Appeal**

**39.** (1) The Land Court of Appeal, for use as the occasion may require, must have an official seal of a design determined by the President by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

(2) The registrar of the Land Court of Appeal must keep custody of the official seal of the Land Court of Appeal.

### **Seat of Land Court of Appeal**

**40.** The seat of the Court is also the seat of the Land Court of Appeal.

## ***Part 2***

### ***Jurisdiction and powers of Land Court of Appeal***

#### **Rules for Land Court of Appeal**

**41.** (1) The Rules Board, in consultation with the President of the Land Court of Appeal, must make rules to govern the procedure of the Land Court of Appeal and any matter which may be necessary or useful to be determined for the proper despatch and conduct of the functions of the Land Court of Appeal.

(2) The rules must provide for direct access to the Land Court of Appeal for an appeal contemplated in section 13(2) of the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Act, 1996 (Act No. 3 of 1996).

(3) The rules that have been made, altered or repealed must be published in the *Gazette*.

#### **Jurisdiction of Land Court of Appeal and power to hear appeals**

**42.** (1) Subject to the Constitution and despite any other law, the Land Court of Appeal has exclusive jurisdiction—

- (a) to hear and determine all appeals against the judgments and orders of the Court; and
- (b) to decide any question of law reserved in terms of section 25(2)(a).

(2) The Land Court of Appeal may, in addition—

- (a) dispose of an appeal without the hearing of oral argument;
- (b) receive further evidence;
- (c) remit the case to the court of first instance, or to the court whose decision is the subject of the appeal, for further hearing, with such instructions as regards the taking of further evidence or otherwise as the Land Court of Appeal deems necessary; or
- (d) confirm, amend or set aside the decision which is the subject of the appeal and render any decision which the circumstances may require.

(3) A decision to which any two judges of the Land Court of Appeal agree is the decision of the Court.

(4) The functions of the Land Court of Appeal may be performed at any place in the Republic.

### **Appeals against judgment or order of Court**

**43.** (1) No appeal lies against a judgment or order of the Court except with leave of the Court or, where such leave has been refused, with the leave of the Land Court of Appeal.

(2) An appeal from a judgment or order of the Court must be heard by the Land Court of Appeal in open court.

(3) The Land Court of Appeal may, in granting leave to appeal, vary any order for costs made by the Court in refusing leave to appeal.

(4) The power to grant leave to appeal as contemplated in subsection (1)—

(a) is not limited by reason only of the value of the matter in dispute or the amount claimed or awarded in the suit or by reason only of the fact that the matter in dispute is incapable of being valued in money; and

(b) is subject to the provisions of any other law which specifically limits it or specifically grants, limits or excludes any right of appeal.

(5) Leave to appeal may be granted subject to such conditions as the Court or the Land Court of Appeal, as the case may be, considers appropriate, including a condition that the applicant files security for the costs of the appeal.

(6) The Land Court of Appeal may grant leave to appeal on application made to it within 15 days, or such longer period as may on good cause be allowed, after the Court has refused leave to appeal.

(7) (a) An application to the Land Court of Appeal in terms of subsection (6) must—

(i) be brought on notice of motion supported by an affidavit as to the facts upon which the applicant relies for relief; and

(ii) be addressed to the registrar of the Land Court of Appeal, to the registrar of the Court and to all other parties in the proceedings before the Court.

(b) The application must be considered by two judges of the Land Court of Appeal designated by the President of the Land Court of Appeal, and

in the case of a difference of opinion, also by the President of the Land Court of Appeal or any other such judge so designated.

(c) The judges considering the application may order that the application be argued before them at a time and place appointed, and may, whether or not they have so ordered—

- (i) grant or refuse the application; or
- (ii) refer the application to the Land Court of Appeal for consideration, whether upon argument or otherwise,

and where an application has been so referred, the Land Court of Appeal may thereupon grant or refuse the application.

(d) The decision of the majority of the judges considering the application, or the decision of the Land Court of Appeal, as the case may be, to grant or refuse the application, is final.

(e) Notice of the date and place fixed for the hearing of the application must be given to the applicant and the respondent by the registrar of the Land Court of Appeal.

(8) The Land Court of Appeal, on the hearing of any appeal from the Court, has the power to—

- (a) receive further evidence;
- (b) remit the case to the Court for further hearing, with such instructions as regards the taking of further evidence or otherwise as the Land Court of Appeal considers necessary; or
- (c) confirm, amend or set aside the judgment or order which is the subject of the appeal and to give any judgment or make any order which the circumstances may require.

(9) Nothing in this section contained may be construed as preventing an appeal from a judgment or order of the Court being made directly to the Constitutional Court, if such an appeal is allowed by national legislation and by the rules of the Constitutional Court.

### **Representation before Land Court of Appeal**

**44.** (1) Any person who, in terms of section 13, may appear before the Court has the right to appear before the Land Court of Appeal.

(2) The provisions of section 16, read with the changes required by the context, apply to an appeal contemplated in section 42.

### **Judgments of Land Court of Appeal binding on Court**

**45.** A judgment of the Land Court of Appeal is binding on the Court.

### **Land Court of Appeal final court of appeal**

**46.** Subject to the Constitution and despite any other law, no appeal lies against any decision, judgment or order given by the Land Court of Appeal in respect of—

- (a) its decision on any question of law in terms of 25(2)(a);
- (b) any appeal in terms of section 34(2); or
- (c) any judgment or order made in terms of section 42(1).

**Costs**

47. The judge, judges or Land Court of Appeal deciding the matter may make such order as to costs of the case as deemed fit, including an order that the unsuccessful party pay to the successful party the costs of review in a sum fixed by the judge, judges or Land Court of Appeal.

**Service and enforcement of orders**

48. Any decision, judgment or order of the Land Court of Appeal may be served and executed as if it were a decision, judgment or order of the High Court.

**CHAPTER 6****GENERAL PROVISIONS****General provisions applicable to courts established by Act**

49. The provisions of the Superior Courts Act, 2013, read with the changes required by the context, apply in relation to the Court and the Land Court of Appeal, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with this Act.

**Finances and accountability**

50. Expenditure in connection with the administration and functioning of the Court must be defrayed from monies appropriated by Parliament for such purpose.

## Transitional arrangements

**51.** (1) (a) Any proceedings arising out of the application of this Act or any other law conferring jurisdiction on the Court, pending in any court other than the Land Claims Court established by section 22 of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, at the commencement of this Act must be continued and concluded in every respect as if this Act had not been passed.

(b) Any proceedings arising out of the application of this Act or any other law conferring jurisdiction on the Court, pending in the Land Claims Court, at the commencement of this Act must be continued and concluded in terms of this Act in the Court and, for that purpose—

(i) those proceedings are deemed to have been instituted in terms of this Act in the Court; and

(ii) anything done under any provision of any law amended by this Act is deemed to have been done under the corresponding provision of this Act,

unless the Court is of the view that this would not be in the interests of justice, in which event the Court must conclude the proceedings in the Court as if this Act had not been passed.

(c) Proceedings for purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1), are deemed to be pending if, at the commencement of this Act—

(i) a civil summons had been issued but judgment has not been passed; or

(ii) an accused person had pleaded but judgment or sentence has not been passed.

(d) Any proceedings arising out of the application of any law pending in any tribunal or forum at the commencement of this Act must be continued and concluded in every respect as if this Act had not been passed.

(2) Any period of time served by a person as a judge or an acting judge of the Land Claims Court established in terms of section 22 of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, is deemed to have been served by that person, as a judge appointed in terms of section 8 of this Act.

(3) Any money available from the budget allocation for purposes of section 29(4) of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, before its amendment by this Act, forms part of the budget allocation of Legal Aid South Africa for purposes of giving effect to section 16(4) of this Act.

## **Amendment of Laws**

**52.** The laws mentioned in the Schedule are amended to the extent indicated in the third column of the Schedule.

## **Regulations**

- 53.** (1) The Minister may make regulations regarding—
- (a) the form of the oath or solemn affirmation of a person who has been appointed a judge of the Court and who is not a judge of the High Court;
  - (b) the manner and conditions of appointment officers of the Court;
  - (c) functions to be performed by officials of the Court;
  - (d) manner of appointment of assessors;

- (e) oath or affirmation of an assessor;
- (f) fees and allowances of an assessor not in full time employ of State;
- (g) the manner of instituting proceedings in the Court;
- (h) the period of time within which the matter must be referred to a Judge President of the Court after receipt of notification;
- (i) the period of time within which the Judge President must decide whether the matter is to be heard or referred for mediation or arbitration;
- (j) the manner in which the matter must be transferred for mediation or arbitration and notification of the parties;
- (k) the period of time within which a date for a hearing must be set;
- (l) the manner in which the matter is referred back to the Court;
- (m) the period of time within which the matter must be set for hearing;
- (n) the manner, in which a person is subpoenaed to appear as a witness in a matter before the Court to give evidence or to produce a book, document or other written instrument or any item;
- (o) any matter required or permitted to be prescribed by regulation under this Act; and
- (p) any other matter which is necessary to prescribe in order to achieve the objects of this Act.

(2) The Minister must make regulations to facilitate the resolution of disputes through mediation or arbitration including—

- (a) the process by which mediation is initiated, and the form, content and use of that process;
- (b) the process arbitration proceedings are initiated;

- (c) the joinder of any person having an interest in the dispute in any mediation or arbitration proceedings;
- (d) the prescribed forms to be used by parties in respect of mediation or arbitration;
- (e) the right of any party to be represented by any person or category of persons in any mediation or arbitration proceedings, including the regulation or limitation of the right to be represented in those proceedings;
- (f) the consequences for any party to mediation or arbitration proceedings for not attending those proceedings;
- (g) qualification for appointment as mediator or arbitrator;
- (h) fees that payable for mediation and arbitration;
- (i) the appointment, powers and functions of a mediator and an arbitrator;
- (j) the remuneration of a mediator and an arbitrator who is not in the full time employ of the State;
- (k) the manner in which a party to an arbitration may apply to the Court to—
  - (i) stop the arbitration process and to proceed in the Court;
  - (ii) vary or set aside a settlement agreement; or
  - (iii) setting aside of an arbitration award;
- (l) legal assistance that Legal Aid South Africa may provide to parties who wish to exercise their right to have a dispute resolved through mediation or arbitration, and any expenditure related thereto;
- (m) duties to be performed by the registrar or officer of the court in assisting parties who wish to exercise their right to have a dispute resolved through mediation or arbitration.

(3) Any regulation under this section which results in State expenditure, must be made with the concurrence of the Cabinet member responsible for finance.

#### **Short title and commencement**

**54.** (1) This Act is called the Land Court Act, 2020, and commences on a date determined by the President by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

(2) For purposes of subsection (1) different dates may be proclaimed in respect of different provisions of the Act and the different items of the Schedule to the Act.

**SCHEDULE**  
**LAWS AMENDED**

(Section 52)

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
1.	Act No. 112 of 1991	Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act, 1991	<p>1. Section 1 is hereby amended by the insertion of the following definition after the definition of <b>'community resolution'</b>:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">" <b>'Court'</b> means the Land Court established by section 3 of the Land Court Act, 2020;" .</p> <p>2. Section 19 is hereby amended by—</p> <p>(a) the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">"(2) Land obtained by any tribe by virtue of section 20 shall not during a period of ten years as from the commencement of this Act be sold, exchanged, donated, let or otherwise allocated by that tribe to any person who is not a member of that tribe, except on the authority of consent granted by <b>[a competent court] the Court.</b>"; and</p> <p>(b) the substitution for the words preceding paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of the following words:</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">"(3) Consent in terms of subsection (2) shall not be granted unless the <b>[court] Court</b> is satisfied-".</p> <p>3. Section 20 is hereby amended by—</p> <p>(a) the insertion of the following heading: <b>"Transfer of tribal land"</b>; and</p> <p>(b) the substitution for paragraph (f) of subsection (4) of the following paragraph:</p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p>"(f) on the authority of a warrant issued by a <b>[magistrate or a judge of the Court having jurisdiction]</b> at any reasonable time enter upon such land or any contiguous land."</p> <p>4. Section 21 is hereby amended by the substitution for the words preceding paragraph (b) of the following words:  <b>"[(1)]</b> Whenever in any <b>[judicial]</b> proceedings <u>before the Court</u> the question arises—".</p> <p>5. Section 23 is hereby amended by the insertion of the following heading:  <b><u>"Offences"</u></b></p> <p>6. Section 24D is hereby amended by—</p> <p>(a) the substitution for paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of the following paragraph:  "(d) if it is necessary for the purposes of paragraph (a), (b) or (c), at any reasonable time, on the authority of a warrant issued by a <b>[magistrate or] judge [having jurisdiction] of the Court</b>, enter upon any erf or other land in the area concerned.";</p> <p>(b) the substitution for subsection (7) of the following subsection:  "(7) If any person refuses to answer a question put to him or her under subsection (6)(a) or to deliver or submit anything required under subsection (6)(b), the person acting under subsection (6)(a) or (b) may apply to the</p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p><b>[magistrate's court for the district in which the erf or piece of land in question is situated] Court</b> for an order compelling the former person to answer the question or deliver or submit the thing and the <b>[court] Court</b> may make such order as it deems fair and just under the circumstances, including an order for costs, having regard to the public interest and the right to privacy of the respondent."; and</p> <p>(c) the substitution for subsections (11) and (12) of the following subsections:</p> <p><b>7.</b> The following sections are hereby inserted after section 24D:</p> <p><b><u>"Jurisdiction of Court</u></b></p> <p><b><u>24E.</u></b> <u>The Court has jurisdiction to resolve any dispute arising from of the application of this Act."</u></p>
2.	Act No. 126 of 1993	Land Reform: Provision of Land and Assistance Act, 1993	<p><b>1.</b> The following sections are hereby inserted after section 12:</p> <p><b><u>"Jurisdiction of Land Court</u></b></p> <p><b><u>12A.</u></b> <u>The Land Court established by section 3 of the Land Court Act, 2020, has jurisdiction to resolve any dispute arising from of the application of this Act."</u></p>
3.	Act No. 3KZ of 1994	KwaZulu-Natal Ingonyama Trust Act, 1994	<p><b>1.</b> Section 1 is hereby amended by the substitution for the definition of <b>'Minister'</b> of the following definition:</p> <p><b>" 'Minister' means the [Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform of the National Government] Cabinet member responsible for agriculture, land reform and rural development, or another Minister designated by the</b></p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p>President;";</p> <p>2. The following section is hereby substituted for section 4:  "4. The Department of Land <b>[Affairs]</b> <u>Reform and Rural Development</u> shall bear the costs of the administration of the Board."</p> <p>3. The following sections are hereby inserted after section 4A:  <u>"Jurisdiction of Land Court</u></p> <p><u>4B. The Land Court established by section 3 of the Land Court Act, 2020, has jurisdiction to resolve any dispute arising from of the application of this Act."</u></p>
4.	Act No. 22 of 1994	Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994	<p>1. Section 1 is hereby amended by—</p> <p>(a) the substitution for the definition of <b>'Court'</b> of the following definition:  " <b>'Court'</b> means the Land <b>[Claims]</b> Court established by section <b>[22]</b> 3 of the <u>Land Court Act, 2020</u>;"</p> <p>(b) the deletion of the definitions of <b>'High Court'</b> and <b>'presiding judge'</b>; and</p> <p>(c) the substitution for the definition of <b>'the rules'</b> of the following definition:  " <b>'the rules'</b> means the rules made under <b>[sections]</b> <u>section 16 of this Act</u>;"</p> <p>2. Chapter 3 is hereby deleted.</p>
5.	Act No. 3 of 1996	Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Act, 1996	<p>1. Section 1 is hereby amended by—</p> <p>(a) the substitution for the definition of "court" of the following definition:  " <b>'Court'</b> means the Land <b>[Claims]</b> Court established by section <b>[22 of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act 22 of 1994)]</b></p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p><u>3 of the Land Court Act, 2020</u>;" and</p> <p>(b) the substitution for the definition of "the rules" of the following definition:  " <b>'the rules'</b> means rules made <b>[by the President of the Court]</b> <u>under section 12 of the Land Court Act, 2020</u>."</p> <p><b>2.</b> Section 2 is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (6) of the following subsection:  "(6) For the purpose of establishing whether a person is a labour tenant, <b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u> shall have regard to the combined effect and substance of all agreements entered into between the person who avers that he or she is a labour tenant and his or her parent or grandparent, and the owner or lessee of the land concerned."</p> <p><b>3.</b> Section 13 is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:  "(1) The provisions of sections 7 to 10 shall apply to proceedings pending in any court, <u>before the commencement of the Land Court Act, 2020, and must be continued and concluded in every respect as if the Land Court Act, 2020 had not been passed [at the commencement of this Act]</u>.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Section 15A is hereby amended by—</p> <p>(a) the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:  "(1) No person shall remove or evict a labour tenant or an associate except on the authority of an order of <b>[a competent court]</b> <u>the Court</u>."; and</p> <p>(b) the substitution for subparagraph (iv)</p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p>of paragraph (c) of the following subparagraph:</p> <p>"(iv) the Director of Public Prosecutions contemplated in paragraph (i) shall be barred from prosecuting except with the leave of the <b>[court concerned] Court</b>."</p> <p>5. Section 18 is hereby amended by the deletion of subsections (8) and (9)</p> <p>6. The following section is hereby substituted for section 19:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>"Referral of application"</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>19.</b> <u>On referral of an application by the Director-General, the Judge President of the Court or a judge of the Court nominated by him or her may direct either that the application be heard by the Court or that it be referred to arbitration contemplated in section 47 of the Land Court Act, 2020.</u>"</p> <p>7. Section 20 is hereby deleted.</p> <p>8. Section 24 is hereby amended by—</p> <p>(a) the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"(2) If the applicant fails to make the payment within three calendar months of receipt of the notice referred to in subsection (1), the owner of the affected land may apply to the Court for an order to declare the previous order of the arbitrator or the Court <u>or the settlement agreement</u> null and void."; and</p> <p>(b) the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:</p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p data-bbox="948 271 1398 965">"(3) The Court may, after hearing an application in terms of subsection (2), make such order as it deems just and equitable: Provided that the previous order made by the arbitrator or the Court <u>or the settlement agreement</u> shall not be declared null and void unless the owner of the affected land and any other person who has received compensation from the applicant in respect of the affected land has paid or has given security for the payment of the amounts which he or she has received from the applicant and the Minister, respectively."</p> <p data-bbox="799 1003 1337 1070"><b>9.</b> Sections 29, 30 and 31 are hereby deleted.</p> <p data-bbox="799 1115 1382 1182"><b>10.</b> The following section is hereby substituted for section 32:</p> <p data-bbox="890 1227 1166 1256"><b>"Powers of review</b></p> <p data-bbox="890 1301 1401 1850"><b>32.</b> The Court shall have the same powers as the <b>[Supreme] High Court</b> to review an act, omission or decision of any functionary acting in terms of this Act or purporting to act in terms of this Act or of any court in respect of proceedings contemplated in section 13 or of any arbitrator in respect of proceedings taking place before him or her in terms of section 33(3), and shall exercise such powers to the exclusion of the provincial and local divisions of the <b>[Supreme] High Court</b>."</p> <p data-bbox="799 1883 1398 2024"><b>11.</b> Section 33 is hereby amended by— (a) the substitution for subsections (3) of the following subsection:</p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p style="text-align: center;">"(3) The <u>Judge</u> President of the Court or a judge of the Court nominated by him or her may determine that proceedings for the eviction of any person which have been instituted in or transferred to the Court shall take place <u>by means of arbitration contemplated in section 47 of the Land Court Act, 2020</u> [before an arbitrator appointed by him or her].</p> <p>(b) the deletion of subsection (4).</p> <p>12. The following section is hereby substituted for section 35:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>"Effect of order of Court</b></p> <p>35. For the purposes of the Deeds Registries Act, 1937 (Act No. 47 of 1937), an order of the Court shall have the same force as an order of the [<b>Supreme</b>] <u>High Court</u>".</p>
6.	Act No. 28 of 1996	Communal Property Associations Act, 1996	<p>1. Section 1 is hereby amended by the insertion of the following definition after the definition of "constitution":  "<b>'Court'</b> means the <u>Land Court established by section 3 of the Land Court, 2020</u>:".</p> <p>2. Section 13 is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:  "(1) [<b>A division of the Supreme Court or a magistrate's court having jurisdiction in respect of the area in which the property of the association is situated or the area in which the land which may be acquired by a provisional association is</b></p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p><b>situated]</b> <u>The Court</u> , may, on application made by the Director-General, an association or provisional association or any member thereof, or any other interested person, place the association or provisional association under the administration of the Director-General or grant a liquidation order in respect of an association or provisional association, where the association or provisional association, because of insolvency or maladministration or for any other cause is unwilling or unable to pay its debts or is unable to meet its obligations, or where it would otherwise be just and equitable in the circumstances."</p>
7.	Act No. 31 of 1996	Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Act, 1996	<p>1. Section 1 is hereby amended by the substitution for the definition of <b>'Minister'</b> of the following definition:  <b>" 'Minister'</b> means the <b>[Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform]</b> <u>Cabinet member responsible for agriculture, land reform and rural development;</u>"</p> <p>2. The following sections are hereby inserted after section 5:</p> <p><b><u>Jurisdiction of Land Court</u></b></p> <p><b>5A.</b> <u>The Land Court established by section 3 of the Land Court Act, 2020, has jurisdiction to resolve any dispute arising from of the application of this Act.</u></p>
8.	Act No. 62 of 1997	Extension of Security of Tenure Act, 1997	<p>1. Section 1 is hereby amended by—  (a) the substitution for the definition of <b>'court'</b> of the following definition:  <b>" 'court'</b> means <b>[a competent court having jurisdiction in terms of this Act]</b> <u>the Land Court established by section 3 of</u></p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p><u>the Land Court Act, 2020</u>, including a Special Tribunal established under section 2 of the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, 1996 (Act 74 of 1996);"; and</p> <p>(b) the deletion of the definition of '<b>Land Claims Court</b>'.</p> <p>2. Section 8 is hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of the following paragraph:  "(b) the owner or person in charge may institute proceedings in <b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u> for a determination of reasonable terms and conditions of further residence, having regard to the income of all the occupiers in the household."</p> <p>3. Section 9 is hereby amended by—</p> <p>(a) the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:  "(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, an occupier may be evicted only in terms of an order of <b>[court]</b> <u>the Court</u> issued under this Act.";</p> <p>(b) the substitution of the words preceding paragraph (a) in subsection (2) of the following words:  "(2) <b>[A court]</b> <u>The Court</u> may make an order for the eviction of an occupier if—"; and</p> <p>(c) the substitution for the Proviso to paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of the following Proviso:  "Provided that if a notice of application to <b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u> has, after the termination of the right of residence, been given to the occupier, the municipality and the head of the relevant provincial office of the</p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p>Department of Rural Development and Land Reform not less than two months before the date of the commencement of the hearing of the application, this paragraph shall be deemed to have been complied with."</p> <p><b>4.</b> Section 10 is hereby amended by—</p> <p>(a) the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:  "(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3), if none of the circumstances referred to in subsection (1) applies, <b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u> may grant an order for eviction if it is satisfied that suitable alternative accommodation is available to the occupier concerned."; and</p> <p>(b) the substitution for the words following paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of the following words:  "<b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u> may grant an order for eviction of the occupier and of any other occupier who lives in the same dwelling as him or her, and whose permission to reside there was wholly dependent on his or her right of residence if it is just and equitable to do so, having regard to—".</p> <p><b>5.</b> Section 11 is hereby amended by the substitution for subsections (1) and (2) of the following subsections:  "(1) If it was an express, material and fair term of the consent granted to an occupier to reside on the land in question, that the consent would terminate upon a fixed or determinable date, <b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u> may on termination of such consent by effluxion of time grant an</p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p>order for eviction of any person who became an occupier of the land in question after 4 February 1997, if it is just and equitable to do so.</p> <p>(2) In circumstances other than those contemplated in subsection (1), <b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u> may grant an order for eviction in respect of any person who became an occupier after 4 February 1997 if it is of the opinion that it is just and equitable to do so."</p> <p><b>6.</b> Section 12 is hereby amended by—</p> <p>(a) the substitution for the words preceding paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of the following words:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"(1) <b>[A court]</b> <u>The Court</u> that orders the eviction of an occupier shall—";</p> <p>(b) the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"(3) <b>[A court]</b> <u>The Court</u> may, at the request of the sheriff in question, authorise any person to assist the sheriff to carry out an order for eviction, demolition or removal, subject to the conditions determined by the court as to the execution thereof: Provided that the sheriff shall at all times be present during such eviction, demolition or removal."; and</p> <p>(c) the substitution for subsection (5) of the following subsection:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"(5) <b>[A court]</b> <u>The Court</u> may, on good cause shown, vary any term or condition of an order for eviction made by it."</p> <p><b>7.</b> Section 13 is hereby amended by—</p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p>(a) the substitution for the words preceding paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of the following words:  "(1) If <b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u> makes an order for eviction in terms of this Act—";  and</p> <p>(b) the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:  "(3) No order for eviction made in terms of section 10 or 11 may be executed before the owner or person in charge has paid the compensation which is due in terms of subsection (1):  Provided that <b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u> may grant leave for eviction subject to satisfactory guarantees for such payment."</p> <p><b>8.</b> Section 14 is hereby amended by—</p> <p>(a) the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:  "(1) A person who has been evicted contrary to the provisions of this Act may institute proceedings in <b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u> for an order in terms of subsection (3).";</p> <p>(b) the substitution for the words following paragraph (b) in subsection (2) of the following words:  "may institute proceedings in <b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u> for an order in terms of subsection (3)."; and</p> <p>(c) the substitution for the words preceding paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of the following words:  "(4) Where the person contemplated in subsection (2) was evicted in terms of an order of <b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u>—".</p> <p><b>9.</b> The heading of Chapter 5 is hereby substituted for the following</p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p>heading:  <b>"DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND [COURTS] <u>LAND COURT</u> (ss 16-23)".</b></p> <p><b>10.</b> Section 16 is hereby substituted for the following section:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>"16.</b> The provisions of sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15 shall apply to proceedings for eviction pending in any court at the commencement of <b>[this] the <u>Land Court Act, 2020</u> and must be continued and concluded in every respect as if the <u>Land Court Act, 2020</u> had not been passed."</b></p> <p><b>11.</b> Section 17 is hereby substituted of the following section:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b><u>"Proceedings by Special Tribunal</u></b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b><u>17.</u></b> (1) A Special Tribunal established under section 2 of the <u>Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, 1996 (Act 74 of 1996)</u>, may, in proceedings arising out of that Act—</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;"><u>(a) decide whether a person is an occupier as defined in section 1;</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;"><u>(b) make an order for eviction under this Act and shall have all powers necessary or reasonably incidental thereto;</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;"><u>(c) where it finds that a person has unlawfully obtained consent to reside on land under any of the circumstances mentioned in section 2 (2)(a) to (g) of the <u>Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, 1996</u>, exclude such person from the application of the provisions of this Act.</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;"><u>(2) A Special Investigating Unit established under</u></p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p><u>section 2 of the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, 1996 (Act 74 of 1996), may investigate any matter relevant to the exercise by a Special Tribunal of the powers mentioned in subsection (1)."</u></p> <p><b>12.</b> Sections 18 and 19 are hereby deleted.</p> <p><b>13.</b> Section 20 is hereby amended by—</p> <p>(a) the substitution for the heading of the following heading:  <b>"Land [Claims] Court";</b></p> <p>(b) the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:  "(1) The Land <b>[Claims]</b> Court shall have jurisdiction in terms of this Act throughout the Republic and shall have all the ancillary powers necessary or reasonably incidental to the performance of its functions in terms of this Act, including the power to—</p> <p>(a) <b>[to]</b> decide any constitutional matter in relation to this Act;</p> <p>(b) <b>[to]</b> grant interlocutory orders, declaratory orders and interdicts;</p> <p>(c) <b>[to]</b> review an act, omission or decision of any functionary acting or purporting to act in terms of this Act; <b>[and]</b></p> <p>(d) <b>[to]</b> review an arbitration award in terms of the Arbitration Act, 1965 (Act No. 42 of 1965), in so far as it deals with any matter that may be heard by a court in terms of this Act];</p> <p><u>(e) direct how the order of the court shall be executed,</u></p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>including the setting of time limits for the implementation of such orders; and</u></p> <p>(f) <u>make such orders for costs as it deems just.</u>";</p> <p>(c) substitution of subsection (2) of the following subsection:  "2) <b>[Subject to sections 17(2) and 19 (1), the The Land [Claims] Court [shall have] has</b> the powers set out in subsection (1) to the exclusion of any court contemplated in section 166(c), (d) or (e) of the Constitution.";</p> <p>(d) the deletion of subsections (3); and (4) and</p> <p><b>14.</b> Section 23 is hereby amended by—</p> <p>(a) the substitution of subsection (1) of the following subsection:  "(1) No person shall evict an occupier except on the authority of an order of <b>[a competent court] the Court.</b>"; and</p> <p>(b) the substitution for subparagraph (iv) of subsection (5)(c) of the following subparagraph:  "(iv) the <b>[Attorney-General] National Director of Public Prosecutions</b> shall be barred from prosecuting except with the leave of the <b>[court concerned] Court.</b>".</p> <p><b>15.</b> Section 25 is hereby amended by—</p> <p>(a) the substitution of subsection (1) of the following subsection:  "(1) The waiver by an occupier of his or her rights in terms of this Act shall be void, unless it is permitted by this Act or incorporated in an</p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p>order of <b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u>."; and</p> <p>(b) the substitution of subsection (2) of the following subsection:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"(2) <b>[A court shall]</b>  <u>The Court must have regard to</u>, but not be bound by, any agreement in so far as that agreement seeks to limit any of the rights of an occupier in terms of this Act."</p>
9.	Act No. 19 of 1998	Prevention of Illegal Eviction from and Unlawful Occupation of Land Act, 1998	<p>1. Section 1 is hereby amended by the substitution for the definition of <b>'court'</b> of the following definition:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">" <b>'Court'</b> means <b>[any division of the High Court or the magistrate's court in whose area of jurisdiction the land in question is situated]</b> <u>the Land Court established by section 3 of the Land Court Act, 2020</u>;"</p> <p>2. Section 4 is hereby amended by—</p> <p>(a) the substitution for subsections (3) and (4) of the following subsections:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"(3) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2), the procedure for the serving of notices and filing of papers is as prescribed by the rules of the <b>[court in question]</b> <u>Court</u>.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(4) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2), if <b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u> is satisfied that service cannot conveniently or expeditiously be effected in the manner provided in the rules of the court, service must be effected in the manner directed by the court: Provided that the court must consider the rights of the unlawful occupier to receive adequate notice and to defend the case.";</p>

Item No.	No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal or amendment
			<p>(b) the substitution for subsections (6) and (7) of the following subsections:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"(6) If an unlawful occupier has occupied the land in question for less than six months at the time when the proceedings are initiated, <b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u> may grant an order for eviction if it is of the opinion that it is just and equitable to do so, after considering all the relevant circumstances, including the rights and needs of the elderly, children, disabled persons and households headed by women.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(7) If an unlawful occupier has occupied the land in question for more than six months at the time when the proceedings are initiated, <b>[a court]</b> <u>the Court</u> may grant an order for eviction if it is of the opinion that it is just and equitable to do so, after considering all the relevant circumstances, including, except where the land is sold in a sale of execution pursuant to a mortgage, whether land has been made available or can reasonably be made available by a municipality or other organ of state or another land owner for the relocation of the unlawful occupier, and including the rights and needs of the elderly, children, disabled persons and households headed by women."; and</p> <p>(c) the substitution for subsection (11) of the following subsection:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"(11) <b>[A court]</b> <u>The Court</u> may, at the request of the sheriff, authorise any</p>

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			<p>person to assist the sheriff to carry out an order for eviction, demolition or removal subject to conditions determined by the court: Provided that the sheriff must at all times be present during such eviction, demolition or removal."</p> <p><b>3.</b> Section 8 is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:  "(1) No person may evict an unlawful occupier except on the authority of an order of <b>[a competent court]</b> <u>the Court</u>."</p> <p><b>4.</b> Section 9 is hereby deleted.</p>