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COPE SLAMS TRUMP'S DELIBERATE MISINTERPRETATION OF LAND EXPROPRIATION ACT.

The Congress of the People (COPE) condemns the deliberate and misleading claims made by US President Donald Trump regarding the Land Expropriation Act.

While the Act does not allow arbitrary land grabs, in his social media post, Trump wrote that South Africa was “confiscating” land and “treating certain classes of people VERY BADLY,” without providing any concrete evidence to his allegations. At the same time using bullying tactics and threatening to cut off all future funding to the country until a full investigation could be conducted.

The Land Expropriation Act, which President Cyril Ramaphosa signed into law on 23 January, outlines the process by which state organs may expropriate land for public good, ensuring that the process aligns with Section 25 of the South African Constitution which upholds fair compensation and includes protection for property rights.

Latest utterance from Trump that South Africa is “treating certain classes of people VERY BADLY” is indicative of a person with a mind still rooted in maintaining South African Apartheid era. His expression is indicative of a mind trapped in racial discrimination and protection of a selected group of the South African society,” said Acting National Treasurer of COPE Teboho Loate.

While this Act intends to redress injustices of the past, Trump should not be allowed to make South Africa a colony of America by telling us how to run our own affair. America has its own land issue where the indigenous American Indians had their land taken away but are quiet about their internal affairs.

“South Africa is a constitutional democracy committed to justice, equality and the rule of law and Trump cannot dictate to us how we run our country. His sentiments are ill-informed and misleading and therefore not welcomed.

Loate added that Trump’s proposal to investigate the matter might help him better understand South Africa’s policies as a constitutional state.

The Expropriation Act is a constitutionally mandated legal framework designed to ensure equitable public access to land in a manner that respects the rights of individuals.

The issue of land remains contentious, with critics from conservative circles like Elon Musk and AfriForum calling on the US to take selective action against the country over the expropriation law. However, the Land Expropriation Act is a necessary step to redress the historical injustices of colonial and apartheid-era land dispossession.

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