



## agriculture, land reform & rural development

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Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Restitution: Towards Settlement of Land Claims**

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The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on our work environment and on our business processes; however, the Land Claims Commission still endeavours to settle claims. We encourage claimants to be in touch with the Commission, as we continue to virtually engage claimants and committees, where this is possible.

The Office of the Regional Land Claims Commissioner: Western Cape received 11 858 claims before the cut-off date of 31 December 1998 and we have to date settled approximately 96% (11 424) of these claims. A total of 434 claims, spread throughout the Western Cape, are still to be settled. 329 claims fall within the City of Cape Town Metropole, 40 are in the Cape Winelands, 30 in the Garden Route, 20 in the West Coast and 15 within the Overberg region.

As a Commission, we are aware of the long time it has taken to settle claims and we are committed to examining new and improved business processes, to ensure that the settlement of claims is more expeditiously dealt with and that there is a fast-tracking system. It is important to note that some cases are complex and result in a longer time to settle claims.

Restitution follows both administrative and judicial processes, which also involve an array of social issues that the Commission needs to navigate before it can settle and finalise claims.

The steps followed to settle claims include; lodgement and registration, screening and categorisation, determining whether the claim meets the set criteria, mediation and negotiation with the claimants and parties, approval of the settlement, and then, eventually, the finalisation of the claim. Delays experienced at a particular step hamper the time to complete and we are looking at ways to circumvent these challenges.

Further, many people lodged new claims in 2014 when the process was re-opened; however, because of the Constitutional Court Order of 2016, we are unable to process any of these claims until we have completed the old order claims.

The Commission remains committed, in collaboration with claimants and stakeholders, to continue its restoration work in keeping with the Restitution of Land Rights Act of 1994 as amended.

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**Issued by the Office of the Regional Land Claims Commissioner: Western Cape.**

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