

Press Release

For immediate release

31 January 2020



South African Institute of Race Relations
The power of ideas

Media contact: Hermann Pretorius, Campaigns Manager at the IRR Tel: 079 875 4290 Email: hermann@irr.org.za

Media enquiries: Michael Morris Tel: 066 302 1968 Email: michael@irr.org.za; Kelebogile Leepile Tel: 011 482 7221 ext: 2018 Email: kelebogile@irr.org.za

IRR hands over 200 000 names of South Africans opposed to EWC – now aims for one million

The Institute of Race Relations (IRR) yesterday delivered to Parliament the names of over 200 000 South Africans who oppose the government's attempts to undermine property rights through expropriation without compensation (EWC).

An IRR team led by Campaigns Manager Hermann Pretorius handed over the names to representatives of Parliament in Cape Town.

Said Pretorius: 'Parliament must be aware that there is a groundswell of opposition to the policy of EWC. While land reform and restitution are vital in South Africa, these objectives must – and can be – achieved without destroying property rights, which are a vital cornerstone of any democratic and prosperous society.'

He added: 'The Bill of Rights and the property rights framework exist to give South Africans assurances against governments repeating the injustices of the past. The current attempt to change the Constitution threatens the livelihoods of countless South Africans and the homes of more than 8 million black, coloured, and Indian South Africans who have become proud homeowners – something too long denied them and now threatened by a government dedicated to an ideology blatantly at odds with the freedoms of our constitutional dispensation.'

Upon delivering the list of names to Parliament, the IRR learned from parliamentary representatives that the deadline for comments had been extended to 29 February. The IRR is encouraged by this first victory for all South Africans who oppose the dangerous attempts by the ANC and their ideological allies to dismantle the property rights framework and repeat the unjust mistakes of the past.

With the deadline extended, the IRR will now focus on convincing another 800 000 South Africans to join it in its efforts. With one million signatures to deliver to Parliament at the end of the consultation process, the message that South Africans will not stand for the mutilation of the Bill of Rights will be louder and clearer than ever.

'Pressure on those with political power achieves the small victories that keep the ambitions of liberty alive,' said Pretorius. 'South Africans want to live free – the IRR's mission is to achieve that for all South Africans.'

Ends