

Press Release

For immediate release

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South African Institute of Race Relations
The power of ideas

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Massive support for IRR campaign against Expropriation without Compensation

The Institute of Race Relations (IRR) today handed over its submission opposing Expropriation without Compensation and the erosion of property rights to the Joint Constitutional Review Committee at parliament, with the backing of just short of 55 000 individual endorsements from concerned South Africans.

The IRR's detailed submission combines a warning that the implications of expropriation without compensation are severe for South Africa's economy and democracy with proposals for alternative constructive measures to achieve long-overdue land reform.

The submission was posted on the IRR website on Tuesday 5 June. It gained 12 500 endorsements in the first five days, and more than four times that number over the past week, reaching 54 902 by midday today[15 June].

An IRR team headed by project manager Terence Corrigan and campaign manager Marius Roodt delivered a token 10 boxes of endorsements – a fraction of the total – to the secretariat of the Joint Constitutional Review Committee at Cape Town's parliamentary complex this morning.

Today is the deadline for public comment on the government's plan to embark on Expropriation without Compensation, ostensibly to advance land reform.

The IRR has warned that this policy will undermine the property rights of all South Africans, and cause great economic and political damage.

Its submission is underpinned by extensive research showing that a future in which sizable numbers of black commercial farmers are assisted into business, securely holding their land, is not beyond South Africa's reach – provided the necessary conditions are put in place. Property rights are essential to the success of effective, sustainable land reform.

The IRR believes the huge numbers of South Africans from all communities and all walks of life endorsing its submission reflects mounting anxiety about the threat to property rights, and the desire for a more constructive and effective policy of land reform.

Today marks the end of the first phase of the IRR's campaign to secure property rights and advance proposals for better policy.

Says IRR project manager Terence Corrigan: 'It's been a long process since we started pointing out the dangers of Expropriation without Compensation, and we have now taken this argument to parliament. We believe we are reflecting the true mood of the country and showing the lead in finding a better way for redress and land reform that makes sense. Our submission offers a road to a prosperous future.'

Campaign manager Marius Roodt says: 'The hand-over today of the submission and the many thousands of endorsements it has earned brings to a close the first phase of our campaign on land reform and the vital importance of property rights.'

'The next phase will be an overseas campaign in which two senior members of the IRR will be visiting Europe and America over the next few weeks. We will continue to labour on behalf of those opposed to Expropriation without Compensation.'

Roodt notes that while other organisations have submitted petitions, the IRR's approach has been to provide the public with a template to enable them to register their sentiments individually.

The IRR has pointed out that detailed research-based submissions are critical to informed and constructive public participation. Without expertly drafted submissions, few citizens are in a position to respond to a subject as complex and far-reaching as changing the status of property rights.

The IRR's submission, [here](#), offers a considered argument for genuine, far-reaching land reform founded on property rights and capable of supporting legions of emerging black farmers whose rise, eminence, success and expansion would be the most powerful answer South Africa could offer to the historical denial of property rights to black people.

Read more about the IRR's research [here](#).

Ends.