

Press Release

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South African Institute of Race Relations

The power of ideas

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EWC: IRR briefs lawyers over procedurally flawed work of parliament's Constitutional Review Committee

The IRR is briefing lawyers in preparation for taking the procedurally flawed work of parliament's Constitutional Review Committee on judicial review.

Tomorrow (15 November), the committee is likely to recommend that the Constitution be amended to allow expropriation without compensation (EWC) – nationalisation by another name. Such a change will have disastrous economic, social, and political consequences for all South Africans.

More than 720 000 written submissions were sent in to the committee, about 80% of which were opposed to EWC. The committee has failed to consider these comments and is likely to make its EWC recommendation without ever having looked at 99.9% of them.

However, the committee has a constitutional obligation to hear and heed what South Africans have said on the EWC issue. The IRR is determined to ensure that it fulfils this obligation.

The hundreds of thousands of submissions which people took the trouble to send in must be fully taken into account, not effectively relegated to the rubbish bin, as the committee currently seems intent on doing.

Ends