

**Press
Release
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South African Institute of Race Relations
The power of ideas

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**Pompeo's comments an important warning about SA's perilous EWC drive –
IRR**

Comments by United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo about South Africa's envisaged adoption of Expropriation without Compensation (EWC) should be taken as yet another warning against the perilous course the government is steering.

Speaking in Addis Ababa, he warned that the policy 'would be disastrous for that economy, and most importantly for the SA people'.

It is not altogether unusual for officials representing foreign countries to express such robust sentiments. Pompeo's remarks do, however, mirror concerns expressed by others – such as the Netherlands' foreign minister Stef Blok, who warned that undermining 'property rights and the rule of law' would deter 'existing and potential investors alike'.

In the case of the United States, there is a real concern of losing market access.

We as the IRR have heard similar sentiments in private from diplomats and businesspeople, from across the world – every one of them being favourably disposed towards South Africa as a country, and recognising its potential. EWC, which would degrade the protection of property and (in view of the apparent intention of the ruling party to limit the role of the courts in expropriation) quite possibly meddle with the rule of law, will constrain if not destroy South Africa's economic prospects.

That this policy course may render South Africa 'uninvestable' is one that we have heard repeatedly.

Unfortunately, this is a sentiment that many businesspeople in South Africa share.

The IRR has consistently urged the South African government to change course on EWC. It does nothing to address the failings of land reform, and will condemn the country to more of the lacklustre growth and truncated development that we have seen in recent years – if not something altogether worse.

- The revised submission period for comments on the Draft Constitution Eighteenth Amendment Bill (Section 25) is 29 February.

The IRR urges South Africans to endorse its submission to Parliament at <https://bit.ly/2tEc42Y>. Each submission counts as an individual parliamentary submission.

Says IRR Campaigns Manager Hermann Pretorius: ‘Let’s get #1million voices to protect your property rights and stop expropriation without compensation.’

Ends