

Press Alert

For immediate release

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South African Institute of Race Relations
The power of ideas

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IRR delivers letters on EWC to Sanlam

The Institute of Race Relations (IRR) today delivered two open letters to the Sanlam Office in Johannesburg in relation to the insurance company's position on the expropriation of property without compensation (EWC). The letters delivered are a hard copy of the open letter sent to Sanlam on 11th February 2020, to which the IRR received no reply, as well as a follow-up open letter bearing today's date in reaction to Sanlam's lack of response to the first.

The first letter asks Sanlam what steps it is taking to deal with any clients who may lose their property to EWC and if they will offer insurance coverage for those seeking to avoid the risks associated with EWC.

Due to Sanlam's failure to reply to the IRR's open letter, the IRR has given the company the fail grade of "SELL-OUT" on the IRR's #EWCScorecard. This is set out in the second letter delivered today. The criteria of the #EWCScorecard is simple:

1. Does the corporate entity oppose EWC?
2. Does the corporate entity support anti-EWC lobbies?
3. Has the corporate entity in question submitted a written submission to Parliament opposing EWC?
4. Is the corporate entity currently in discussion with the IRR about the crucial issue of EWC?

While no official meeting could be arranged despite sustained efforts by the IRR, the letters were received by Sanlam and an undertaking given that the letters would reach the appropriate executives.

Other corporate entities in South Africa are currently being assessed by the IRR on these criteria. Only clear and unambiguous opposition to the dismantling of the property rights framework in South Africa can truly protect South Africans who deserve the right to be secure in their ownership of the property they have earned through hard and honest work.

“Fudged, unclear, opportunistic positioning by corporate South Africa will just not be good enough,” said Hermann Pretorius, IRR Campaigns Manager. “Corporations constantly tell South Africans that they should be trusted with our money, our savings, our pensions, our hopes of financial stability. The least these corporate entities can now do is to stand up for our rights and interests, putting our money where their mouths are.

“We urge all South African corporations with a stake in the property rights framework of this country to become a friend of South Africans fighting against EWC and a government ideologically bent on repeating the mistakes of the past. Don’t be appeasers or sell-outs. The South African people will not forgive you if you let them down now.”

Ends