

Dear Friend,

Happy New Year to you and your family. This promises to be a vital year for our country. An election will be held in May, which will have critical implications for you and your family. We can expect heightened rhetoric against minorities, black critics of the government, and the private sector, but with your continued support we will fight back against these arguments, in the media, through face-to-face lobbying, and by using our influence in other spheres. None of this would be possible without you, and the thousands of other ordinary South Africans who have taken a stand by supporting us.

The following is a glimpse of some of what we'll be doing through 2019:

FIGHTING AGAINST EXPROPRIATION WITHOUT COMPENSATION (AND IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT LAND)

This remains our top priority. The African National Congress (ANC) released its election manifesto earlier this month which revealed strong support for EWC at odds with what Mr Ramaphosa tells investors and the business community. The manifesto also suggested that the government may **force** pension fund managers to invest a portion of their funds in state-mandated areas or companies. Effectively, your pension fund manager may be forced to invest some of your pension into state-owned companies, such as Eskom or South African Airways (SAA) where the money will in turn risk being redirected to corrupt cadres and party cronies. Should that happen, you can expect lower returns from your investment, meaning you'll be poorer when you decide to retire. We have been warning for years that EWC is not just about land but about diluting property rights broadly so that the state can seize a much broader range of assets. We **warned** of that explicitly in our submission to the Constitutional Review Committee last year.

Nearly 200 000 South Africans endorsed our campaign directed at President Ramaphosa to stop the EWC madness because of the damage it is doing to our country and economy. Our Head of Strategic Operations, Sihle Ngobese, aka Big Daddy Liberty, will be delivering those endorsements to the Union Buildings soon.

Our anticipated court challenge to EWC is progressing and we have assembled one of the most heavy-weight legal teams in the country. The legal strategy is to wait until relatively late in the legislative process before launching the challenge. None of this would be possible without your support.



Look out for Big Daddy Liberty in his tour around South Africa

FIGHTING RACIST INCITEMENT AND UNITING SOUTH AFRICANS AGAINST SOCIALISM

This is an election year, so expect political rhetoric to reach deafening levels, with minorities and black critics of the government often being scapegoated. The manner in which many in the media and many politicians incited hate around the recent incident at Laerskool Schweizer-Reneke is an early warning of what to expect. We have sent an investigator to the town to find out what really happened and have already **challenged** the DA on their disgraceful behaviour around the incident. A priority for us remains to expose false accusations of racism and correct the public record while holding journalists and politicians accountable for fostering hate and trying to divide communities. Later this year we will be releasing a survey of race relations. Like our previous surveys (which you can read [here](#) and [here](#)) the data already in our possession shows that racism is not South Africa's biggest problem and that South Africans generally like and respect each other and want to work together to build a better country – it's only when the politicians and media get involved that tensions spin out of control.

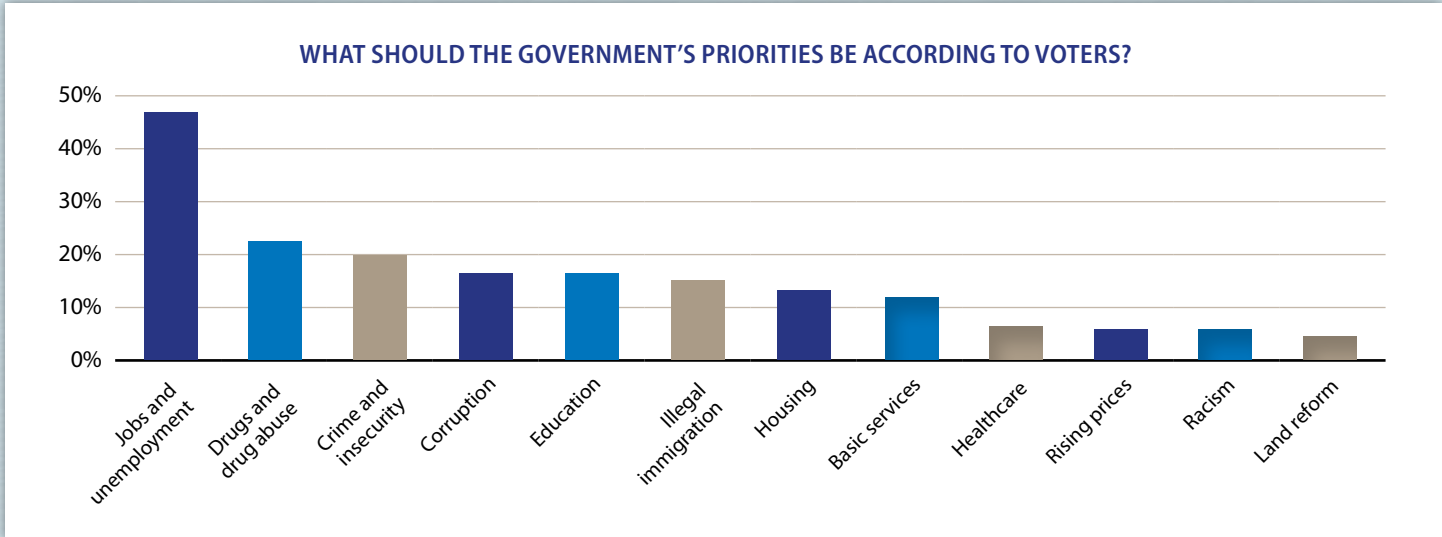
Our polling goes even further to show that most South Africans, black and white, agree with each other that the priorities of the government should be to create jobs and fight crime and corruption. The table below shows, for example, that only 6% of voters believe that land reform should be a government priority as opposed to almost half of people who think the priority should be jobs.



Read our other reports and our interventions in the media [here](#) and [here](#).



Please share this email and our other work with your friends and family and, if they are not already a Friend, encourage them to join [here](#) or by SMSing their name to 32823.



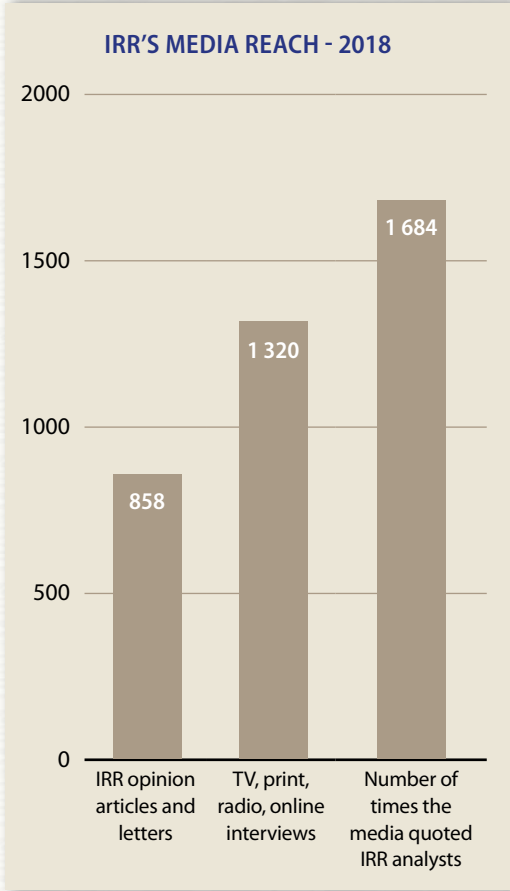
The great challenge of South African politics is to unite the majority of hard-working and law-abiding South Africans and we do that by exposing and holding to account those who try to sow division between black and white South Africans.

HOW WE FIGHT AND WIN

We fight the Battle of Ideas. Battle of Ideas theory holds that the laws and policies adopted in any country reflect the ideas of the group that has the greatest influence on public opinion. In South Africa too many journalists, politicians, and activists promote left-wing, socialist, and racial nationalist ideas. They will argue, for example, that black people in rural areas are poor because of white commercial farmers or that township schools are bad because schools in suburbs receive too many resources. They are very influential and very well resourced. Pick up almost any newspaper or listen to a radio station and you will hear these arguments. This in turn explains why we have policies like EWC or the proposed seizure of pension funds or attempts to undermine the authority of parents on school governing bodies.

We counter all of this through generating high levels of media exposure to arguments showing why property rights, a market economy, and the rule of law is essential for South Africa's progress and the prosperity of all South Africans. The graphic to the right shows the massive media exposure we generated for these and other ideas. We are the only independent think-tank that places these arguments at levels sufficient to comfortably reach hundreds of thousands of people every day. Every argument placed in the media was an argument against the poor government policy that is preventing South Africa from reaching its full potential.

Your support makes it all possible.



BRING US TO YOUR COMMUNITY

If you want us to brief your community on what is happening in our country and what you should do to secure your future and that of your family, then send an email to Sihle Ngobese at bigdaddyliberty@irr.org.za and let us know. If you can get even just a few friends together we would love to meet you to share what our analysts know and to answer your questions about what's going on and what's going to happen next.