

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your continued support in our work to build a South Africa that works for all who live in it. The work we do in pushing back against bad policy and bad ideas would not be possible without ordinary South Africans such as you. Only by standing together against bad ideas and bad policy can we force the government to make the changes necessary to see our country become a prosperous one for all.

We continue to fight for you and for your right to make decisions about how you want to live your life. We are currently busy with a number of interventions to ensure that you and your family are free from unnecessary government interference.

STANDING UP AGAINST NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE – #STOPNHI

The government wants to implement a system of National Health Insurance (NHI), which is the effective nationalisation of private medical care in South Africa. Instead of working to improve the public system, the government is looking to bring the private system under its umbrella, with all the consequences that will have for ordinary South Africans.

Ordinary South Africans can comment on the legislation around NHI. The deadline for this is 29 November. However, we at the IRR have proposed a solution whereby, instead of destroying the private sector, it works with the public sector to extend quality healthcare to those that do not have it. You can read our proposal [here](#) and if you agree with our solutions you can endorse them [here](#). Already nearly 45 000 South Africans have expressed their support for our solution to the South African healthcare crisis. And please also encourage your friends and family to do so. The more people who stand together against bad policy the greater chance of success we have.

The IRR will also be making sure that the voices of ordinary doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals, who are opposed to NHI, will also be heard.

Members of the IRR have already delivered the names of South Africans who oppose NHI to Parliament. IRR staff members will travel to Cape Town again before the deadline of 29 November to hand over the names of more South Africans who have endorsed our alternative to the South African healthcare crisis.



Marius Roodt, senior campaigns advisor, and Sihle Ngobese, head of strategic operations and also known as Big Daddy Liberty, outside Parliament shortly before handing over the names of 1 000s of South Africans who support the IRR's healthcare solution to parliamentary staff.



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.

HERMANN PRETORIUS JOINS THE CAMPAIGNS TEAM

Hermann Pretorius is the new campaigns co-ordinator at the IRR. Hermann holds an LLB from the University of Pretoria and has experience in political analysis, communications coaching and political campaigning. Hermann will be managing the campaigns to raise issues that are important to you and ensuring that the government, business and political parties hear your voice. And if you'd like our CEO, Frans Cronje, or any other IRR staff member to come to your community to tell you what's happening in South Africa, email Hermann at hermann@irr.org.za or phone him on 079 875 4290.



Hermann Pretorius, the IRR's new campaign co-ordinator.

GOVERNMENT EYEING YOUR PENSION - #STOLENASSETS

The South African government is running out of money. Debt levels are the highest they have ever been – even higher than during apartheid. This is unsustainable and the fact of the matter is that the government does not have enough money to pay its bills.

The government has a number of options, but one that seems increasingly likely is a policy of prescribed assets. This means that the government would be able to 'prescribe' to your pension fund or asset manager where your retirement savings must be invested. For example, the government could simply change Regulation 28 (which determines how much of your money can be invested outside of South Africa) to say that 20% of your pension must be invested in government bonds. Effectively you would be forced to lend money to the government, with no guarantee that you would get a return on your investment. You would be funding state-owned entities, such as Eskom and South African Airways. In an environment of prescribed assets, your pension will be smaller than it otherwise would have been, or you will have to work longer than you had planned to.

And this is very likely to become government policy – it was mentioned as a possibility in the ANC's manifesto before the election. Furthermore, President Cyril Ramaphosa refused to confirm that he was opposed to the policy when questioned on it in Parliament, and a number of ANC MPs have come out in favour of prescribed assets, as has Floyd Shivambu, the deputy leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters.

But, as with most things in the fight against bad ideas, people need to stand together to oppose them. The IRR is giving people the opportunity to directly ask their pension fund manager to determine what is being done to protect their pensions. You can access the letter [here](#). And if you have friends or family who are concerned about the safety of their retirement nest egg, encourage them to do so, too.

Also look out for the IRR in the media over the next few weeks as we raise awareness around this issue and how it will affect you and many other South Africans.

And **watch** renowned economist Mike Schussler in conversation with Big Daddy Liberty on the threat posed by the government to your pension.



SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE THAT #COMMONSENSE

In this crucial time for our country, when the government is pursuing dangerous ideologies and policies, and rhetoric seeks to divide on race, it is important to point out that South Africans have a lot in common and share many common values.

As part of that the IRR has launched its #CommonSense campaign. The daily experience of millions of South Africans and the highest level of data the IRR analyses on a daily basis underline the fundamental point that the people of South Africa are good, decent, #CommonSense people. The vast majority of South Africans are non-racial, hard-working, honest people who, in the words of the Constitution's preamble, "recognise the injustices of our past" and who want to "heal the divisions of the past".

The #CommonSense views of ordinary South Africans should be the basis on which all government decisions are made, especially when the government is to announce how it plans to spend the hard-earned money of citizens. Only by listening to these views, can South Africa become a prosperous society.

To bring about the South Africa we all deserve, politicians, parties, and governments must realise that:

- South Africans want job creation, fighting corruption, better education, and fighting crime to be the top priorities of government;
- The majority of South Africans feel that race relations are now better than they were in 1994;
- The majority of South Africans want people to be appointed on merit, with special training for disadvantaged people, irrespective of race;
- The majority of South Africans want sports teams to be selected on merit and not race quotas;

Look out for our #CommonSense campaign in the media in the upcoming few weeks.

FRIENDS, PODCASTS, AND MORE

And if you like what you hear from us and haven't already done so, remember to have a look at the *Daily Friend*, the online newspaper of the IRR. You can find it [here](#). You will be able to read some of the best writers on liberty working in South Africa today, such as John Kane-Berman, Gabriel Crouse, Frans Cronje, Terence Corrigan, and Mpiyakhe Dlamini. And if you do already read the *Daily Friend*, let us know what you think of our new upgraded website.

And, don't forget, our analysis on what is happening in South Africa today is not limited to the written word. Look out for our [podcasts](#) on Iono and [videos](#) on YouTube. And if you use social media, remember to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



The IRR's studio at its offices in Johannesburg.

