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Title: IRR seeks clarity on the Expropriation Act

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these kind of incidents as they may spread due to intention of others to "globalise intifada", that is to militarise people across the world on the notion that by hating or carrying out violence against the Jewish people it will be a symbol of support to the Palestinians and attack against Israel.

The world needs peace, stability and security to address socio-economic challenges such as hunger, energy poverty, unemployment, environmental crisis, crime and corruption, HIV/AIDS and many others.

It is impossible to address all these challenges when a country is in the middle of a war or conflict. Governments throughout the world should call for peace and help to restore it, and not become part of the conflict which has affected the livelihoods of the people.

KENNETH MOENG MOKGATLHE | Joburg

IRR seeks clarity on the Expropriation Act

THE Institute of Race Relations (IRR) will this week write to the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson, requesting clarity on a crucial matter related to the Expropriation Act, for which the Minister is responsible.

The Act grants sweeping powers to expropriating authorities to expropriate any form of property below market value. It offers weak and contradictory measures to property owners to protect their rights through the courts. Yet, just how many authorities in South Africa are granted expropriating powers by the Act is unclear; by IRR calculations, the number could exceed 400.

Says Makone Maja, IRR Strategic Engagements Manager: "The Expropriation Act is an unpopular piece of legislation. IRR opinion polling in March and April this year found that 68% of registered voters oppose the Act. It's easy to understand why. The Act is written so



THE Expropriation Act is written so broadly that every form of property in South Africa is now subject to expropriation below market value. From homes to farms to businesses to savings to pensions, all forms of property are, in terms of the Act, vulnerable to expropriation, says Makone Maja, IRR Strategic Engagements Manager. | HENK KRUGER African News Agency

Plight of baboons is a man-made problem

IT is with great sadness that I read of the appalling plans to remove and/or euthanise many of the baboons in the deep south of the Cape Peninsula.

It is apparently true that the numbers of baboons in the area are increasing, which is positive for the biodiversity of the region, but the growth in the baboon population is dwarfed by the massive increase in the human population due to the densification of the area.

It can easily be argued that the human population cause much more harm and damage to the environment and to each other than the baboons do.

It is also true that the baboons have lived in the area for hundreds of years before our arrival.

We know that people purchasing properties in areas inhabited by baboons are aware of this fact beforehand and should make every effort to ensure that their homes are baboon proof to ensure minimum confrontation with the animals.

It is sad that today when we are experiencing first-hand the ravages of climate change and the devastating impact of human habitation on the earth that we continue to be oblivious to the needs of our animal cohabitants of the precious earth.

Surely, there is a better way to handle the problem.

DAVID SYLVESTER | Fish Hoek

broadly that every form of property in South Africa is now subject to expropriation below market value. From homes to farms to businesses to savings to pensions, all forms of property are, in terms of the Act, vulnerable to expropriation. And yet there seems to be no clarity from the government on the exact number of entities the law empowers to confiscate property on astonishingly flimsy grounds."

As illustrated in the IRR's flagship Blueprint for Growth series, property rights are a vital means of economic participation and empowerment only if they are secure. Weaken the certainty with which people can own what's lawfully theirs and the knock-on consequences range from undermining food security to wiping out pensions and savings.

Says Maja: "It is the height of policy recklessness for this door of vast state power to be opened to an unknown number of expropriating authorities. If the number of these authorities is unknown, how can South Africans have any trust that the sweeping expropriating powers granted by the Act won't be abused?"

"We have all heard the horror stories of extortion by state officials – from kickback mafias to corruption. We are a country familiar with the disgusting abuse of state power. The Expropriation Act empowers a vast expropriation network at all levels of the state. The IRR has thus far tallied at least 426 such authorities, yet the number might rise to close to a thousand. This is a terrifying prospect. The Minister has a duty to provide urgent clarity on this matter."

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By Stephen Francis & Rico

