

Press

Release

For immediate release

14 November 2019



South African Institute of Race Relations

The power of ideas

Media contact: Hermann Pretorius, Campaigns Coordinator at the IRR Tel: 079 875 4290 Email: hermann@irr.org.za

Media enquiries: Michael Morris Tel: 066 302 1968 Email: michael@irr.org.za;
Kelebogile Leepile Tel: 011 482 7221 ext: 2018 Email: kelebogile@irr.org.za

IRR welcomes further engagement with Public Protector's office over Lesufi probe

Representatives of the Institute of Race Relations (IRR) today met investigators from the Public Protector's office regarding the IRR's complaint against the Gauteng Department of Education under the leadership of MEC Panyaza Lesufi relating to worrying indications of maladministration within the department.

The focus of the IRR's complaint falls on three matters: allegations of irregular expenditure amounting to R1.2 billion in the financial year 2018/2019; the creation of an online curriculum website that took six years to construct, yet consists largely of free open-source elements with serious deficiencies; and the failure of the department to place thousands of children in schools for the 2020 academic year.

Since making its complaint public, the IRR has been approached by numerous concerned parties, including teachers, parents and government officials, who have communicated their support, and offered to provide the IRR with information to further the complaints process.

“We welcome the decision of the Public Protector’s office to look into our complaint. By holding those in power to account, South Africans can #FreeEducation from the clutches of those who seek to further their own interests above those of the children of South Africa who deserve a bright future,” says Hermann Pretorius, campaigns co-ordinator for the IRR.

To support the IRR in its efforts to ensure government accountability, SMS FAIL to 32823 (SMSes cost R1, Ts & Cs apply).

Ends