

Press

Release

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South African Institute of Race Relations

The power of ideas

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Lesufi's placement system chaos still unresolved – IRR

The Institute of Race Relations (IRR) notes that the futures of more than 14 000 pupils in Gauteng remain in jeopardy due to the inability of provincial MEC for Education Panyaza Lesufi to administer a chaotic system his department created.

The placement system is an insult to Gauteng parents on two levels. First, it robs them of the dignity and the ability to act in the best interests of their children by taking away their choice on which school to send their children to. Second, it makes a mockery of their concerns by catastrophically failing to ensure that this limitation of parental freedom results is something at least morally palatable.

The IRR stands firm in its determination to hold Mr Lesufi and his department to account for the manner in which education in Gauteng is being managed.

True to form, perhaps, Mr Lesufi attacked the IRR on social media without making any attempt to engage with the substance of the complaint the IRR has lodged with the Public Protector. This cannot but be seen as a shameful dismissal of the concerns of thousands of parents in Gauteng who want the best for their children,

but are denied their right to seek to achieve this by the ideological stubbornness of vainglorious politicians.

In response to Mr Lesufi's social media-based *ad hominem* attacks on the IRR and his efforts to divert attention away from his department's substantial failures, the IRR will soon be publishing an *ad hoc* report to highlight specific issues regarding education in Gauteng.

"The awkward reality for Mr Lesufi is that you can tweet your way into the favour of some race nationalists, but you can't tweet your way out of a crisis of your own making. Mr Lesufi is about to learn this the hard way," said Hermann Pretorius, IRR campaigns co-ordinator.

To support the IRR in holding Mr Lesufi to account and to #FreeEducation from the clutches of politicians and ideologues, make clear your commitment to a better South Africa at <https://irr.org.za/campaigns/freeeducation>.

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