

Press Release

For immediate release



South African Institute of Race Relations
The power of ideas

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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

National debt now suffocating our communities - IRR

Over recent weeks, the Institute of Race Relations has noted with concern the increasingly dire state of South Africa's finances.

According to figures from the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, South Africans will pay R796 billion on servicing the national debt over the next three years.

To contextualize the scale of this problem and concretise the amount of money ordinary South Africans will need to fork out for the government's mismanagement of the fiscus, the IRR has today released a simple infographic on what communities could've afforded had the government not created the current crisis.

The infographic shows that the money spent on servicing national debt could have:

- paid the salaries of 1.1 million nurses, 965 000 doctors, 1.5 million teachers, or 1.9 million policemen for three years; or
- paid for the construction of 13 900 new state-of-the-art schools, 1 450 new hospitals, 4.3 million new RDP houses, or 22 700km of new roads; or
- paid for the four-year university qualifications of 3.2 million students.

"The simple fact is that we can no longer afford the disastrous policies and ideology of the ANC and all those who want to parasitize off the backs of hard-working South Africans. The government has run out of our money," said Hermann Pretorius, campaigns co-ordinator for the IRR.

It's time for the #CommonSense of South Africans to guide policy, rather than ideological obsession and political opportunism. It's time for the government to be honest about its fiscal and economic failures. To win this fight and have #CommonSense prevail, citizens are

encouraged to support the IRR's efforts by committing to a better South Africa at www.irr.org.za.

Ends