

Press Release



**South African
Institute of
Race Relations**

South Africa's Leading Research and Policy Organisation

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African home ownership figures higher than those of other races

Far more Africans live in fully paid-up homes than is the case with other race groups, says the South African Institute of Race Relations.

Some 60% of African households had fully paid off the homes in which they lived in 2009. In comparison, only 46% of other races were in a similar position.

These figures appear in the latest edition of the *South Africa Survey*, published by the Institute in Johannesburg this week.

The relatively higher home ownership figures for Africans can be explained mainly by the transfer of government subsidy houses.

In Gauteng and the Western Cape, the two most affluent provinces in the country, 34% and 42% of households respectively had fully paid off their homes. The less wealthier provinces of the Eastern Cape and Limpopo had higher home ownership figures, with 71% of households in both provinces having fully paid off their homes.

The total number of households that owned and had fully paid off their homes, out of a total of 13.8 million South African households, was just over 56%. Out of the total fully paid homes, male-headed households made up 56% and female 44%.

Within the sexes, 70% of all female-headed households had fully paid off their homes while the same held true for only half of male-headed households.

'The relatively high home ownership figures for Africans, particularly in urban areas, are a triumph over laws such as the Natives (Urban Areas) Act of 1923, which sought to limit home ownership of this population group,' said Mr Kerwin Lebone of the Institute's research department.

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