

Press Release

For immediate release



SOUTH AFRICAN
INSTITUTE OF
RACE RELATIONS

South Africa's Leading Research and Policy Organisation

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12 December 2012

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2012 Annual National Assessment

The results of the 2012 Annual National Assessment (ANA) confirm that basic education in South Africa is in a dire state. However, without the disaggregated results broken down by school, district, and province to contextualise the assessments, the true extent of the problem cannot be adequately gauged.

It is for this reason that the South African Institute of Race Relations has written to the minister of basic education to request her to make the disaggregated results of this year's ANA available for further analysis.

The Institute acknowledges that while the ANA is in itself a massive undertaking, extending to over 7 million pupils, the results tell us little about what the problems actually are without revealing how individual schools and districts performed. In her statement on the release of the ANA results, the minister declared that remarkable advances had been made in access and equity in schooling since 1994. However, unless she provides access to the disaggregated results, it is impossible to tell whether the educational system has indeed become more equitable. The Institute believes that the release of the disaggregated results is in the interest not only of research policy organisations, such as ourselves, but also that of the donor community, parents, pupils, teachers and society at large.

The Institute also notes with concern the decline in adequate passes (50% and above) in both literacy and numeracy as the grades progress. Particularly disturbing is how poorly the grade 9s fared in their assessments, especially in mathematics. Repetition rates and dropout rates are extremely high from grade 10 onwards. Any strategy or intervention plan to be implemented in order to improve these results, though necessary, may be too late to ensure that these pupils have a decent chance of completing school.

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