

**Press
Release
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Government lags in employment equity – IRR

The *South Africa Survey 2016*, released by the IRR this month, shows that national government departments and parastatals lag far behind provincial and local government in employment equity.

Relying on data from the Commission for Employment Equity, the IRR found that only 54.9% of top managers in national government were black-African (and 59.4% in parastatals) compared to 73.8% at provincial government level and 75.7% at local government level.

The reason why national government fails to achieve the same demographic outcomes as local and provincial government was not immediately clear to the IRR.

IRR analyst Gabriela Mackay said: “Despite the often impassioned arguments of national government leaders about the need for all aspects of South African life to achieve demographic representivity, it is apparent that national government is itself falling short of this outcome.”

IRR CEO, Dr Frans Cronjé, said, “the data is astonishing considering the government’s repeated insistence on the need for racial targets and representivity in every area of public life. Perhaps it is a positive sign that the government is losing faith in its own policies and may in time be open to reforms that place the economic good of the country above the current crippling obsession with meeting racial targets that have often been enforced at the expense of the economy and the best interests of South Africa’s people”.

Ends.
