

# Press Release

## For immediate release

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South African Institute of Race Relations  
*The power of ideas*

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### **SA government doing more to hinder than to help – IRR**

Contrary to what it claims, the Government is doing more to hinder than to help young people participate in the economy, says the South African Institute of Race Relations (IRR).

Commenting on a statement issued by the Presidency in response to its recent report entitled *Born Free but Still in Chains*, the IRR said that recent labour law amendments to regulate labour broking were almost certain to deprive huge numbers of unskilled youngsters of the opportunity to put their foot on the jobs ladder for the first time. Plans to extend minimum wages were also likely to price even more young people out of the labour market.

These policies might have been designed to appeal to Cosatu, the IRR said, but the major beneficiary was likely to be the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). This was because the government had no answer to the populist rhetoric the EFF was using to attract black youth.

As for the Presidency's promise to "level the playing fields" to ensure that young black South Africans had the same opportunities as whites, "this can never be fulfilled as long as the government fails to fix the dysfunctional schools which the great majority of young black South Africans have no choice but to attend".

Added the IRR: "The Presidency is quite correct that black South Africans are losing out on essential skills, but this is because the vocational training system is as poor as the majority of ordinary schools, to say nothing of the inexplicable discontinuation of the artisan training system."

The *Born Free but Still in Chains* can be downloaded [here](#).

**Ends.**

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