

TITLE: Panyaza Lesufi defends decision to establish inquiry into Joburg fire

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Article Summary

Gauteng premier Panyaza Lesufi has defended his decision to establish a commission of inquiry into the deadly fire that occurred in downtown Johannesburg on August 31. Lesufi said he acted on the advice of President Cyril Ramaphosa and appointed retired justice Sisi Khampepe to chair the inquiry. The purpose of the inquiry is to investigate the circumstances that led to the deaths of 77 people in the fire. Lesufi emphasized the need for an independent process that is not influenced by politics or cover-ups.

President Ramaphosa has also expressed his condolences to the families affected by the tragedy and has raised questions about the enforcement of bylaws and regulations to protect tenants and the responsibility of owners and landlords in maintaining inner-city buildings. Ramaphosa emphasized the importance of supporting the survivors and coming together as a compassionate society in the face of this tragedy.

Article Analysis

1. Does the article give a political economy contextual analysis of the event?

The article does not provide a political economy contextual analysis of the event. It focuses on the establishment of a commission of inquiry and the response of government officials.

2. What according to the article, is/are the root cause/s of the event?

According to the article, the root cause of the event is the unsafe condition of the hijacked building in downtown Johannesburg, which lacked basic services and was not built for housing.

3. Does the article present evidence of complicity between Johannesburg councillor representatives and organised criminal syndicates that took over the control of the building?

The article does not present evidence of complicity between Johannesburg councillor representatives and organised criminal syndicates that took over the control of the building. It does not mention this aspect.

4. Does the article present evidence of NGOs (like SERI) engaging with organised criminal syndicates that took over the control of the building, on behalf of and in the interests of their clients (i.e. the tenants)?

The article does not present evidence of NGOs engaging with organised criminal syndicates that took over the control of the building on behalf of the tenants

5. Does the article present potential solutions to the occupation by tenants of a hijacked building that has degenerated into a slum?

The article does not present potential solutions to the occupation of the hijacked building by tenants that has degenerated into a slum.

6. Does the article emphasise the conflictual relationship between city officials and the NGO SERI (and other NGOs) regarding different interpretations of the rights of tenants in terms of the law and specifically in terms of the PIE Act?

The article does not emphasize the conflictual relationship between city officials and the NGO SERI regarding different interpretations of the rights of tenants in terms of the law and specifically in terms of the PIE Act. It does not mention this aspect.

Critical Analysis

Overall, the article seems to present the facts of the situation accurately, without overt bias. The author quotes Gauteng premier Panyaza Lesufi and President Cyril Ramaphosa extensively to provide their perspectives on the establishment of a commission of inquiry into the Johannesburg fire.

However, there are a few instances where subjective language may be present. For example, the use of words like "deadly" and "tragedy" to describe the fire may evoke emotional reactions from readers. The author also emphasizes the number of deaths and the involvement of children, potentially heightening the tragedy.

Additionally, the author's choice of words when quoting President Ramaphosa may suggest a judgment on the situation. Phrases like "arbitrary eviction" and "criminal 'slumlords'" convey a negative view of the landlords and owners of the buildings. While it is important to hold individuals accountable, the language used here could be seen as subjective.

In terms of structure, the article is organized chronologically, starting with Lesufi's defense of the inquiry and then transitioning to Ramaphosa's comments on the broader issues surrounding the fire. This structure provides a balanced view of the situation.

Overall, while there may be hints of subjective language, the article appears to be fairly balanced in its presentation of the facts and quotes from the involved parties.

Contradiction Analysis

In this news article, there are no clear contradictions. Both Gauteng premier Panyaza Lesufi and President Cyril Ramaphosa express their support for establishing an inquiry into the Johannesburg fire and emphasize the need for unbiased investigation and accountability. While they provide different perspectives and focus on different aspects of the tragedy, their statements do not contradict each other.