



LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD! KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!



FORWARD

WITH THE STRUGGLE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY!

Now that elections are over, we need to fight to make local government listen to the people and hold leaders to their promises! R2K activists across SA have made the following demands:

We demand the right to recall leaders!

The people of South Africa have too often learned that local government leaders often fail to listen to or serve their community. But because ward Councilors are directly elected by the voters in their ward, it is possible to hold them directly accountable too. That is why R2K structures have engaged local government and political parties and started demanding the right to recall failing leaders.

Every five years, at national and provincial levels, we are asked to vote and

hand over the power to govern to a political party. Unfortunately there is very little accountability to the voters by either the individual politicians placed in leadership positions by the parties, or by the parties themselves. We have seen politicians from all parties make bad and even criminal decisions with little consequence, and with inadequate mechanisms to remove them, the people continue to suffer.

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We demand the right to open meetings!

Demanding local government transparency means that local government must be open -- not only by providing information and documents but by making sure that its processes and meetings are open as well. This is one of the key elements of R2K's activist guide to local government transparency and accountability.

An open meeting does not just mean that the doors are open – we need transparency and active engagement at every stage of the meeting, including

the agenda, public participation inside the meeting and accurate minutes that reflect decisions taken and are available to all.

For a meeting to be called an open meeting, we demand the following:

Details of meetings are advertised to the community and any other relevant stakeholders with enough notice, through (at the minimum) notices in

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Who signed the pledge>>

Before the election, R2K and local organisations challenged ward councillor candidates to sign our pledge to be transparent and accountable, and to agree to step down if they fail their promises. Many candidates refused! But others stepped forward and committed themselves!



Noorjan Allie, Ward 60, Lansdowne (Al Jama Ah)



Patrick Mokgothu, Ward 27, Soweto (Economic Freedom Fighters)



Tembinkosi Qondela, Ward 87, Khayelitsha (Independent)



Farouk Cassim, Ward 57 Observatory (Congress of the People)



Mbuso Zulu, Ward 21 Ekurhuleni (Inkatha Freedom Party)

“BLACK LIVES MATTER!”

R2K stands with Glebelands residents against political killings

On 15 July, R2K structures gathered at police stations in three different provinces to demand an end to the violence and terror that has plagued the people of Glebelands Hostel in Umlazi, KZN. This action was to support efforts on the ground to challenge those in power in Glebelands.

Over the past two years, Glebelands has been home to one of the worst human rights crises in South Africa. Up to 64 people have been murdered in a spate of political violence, and up to 13 residents have been tortured by police.

Although the authorities claim these killings are the result of factions in the hostel, many in the community believe the violence is linked to ward councillor Robert Mzobe, who has faced protests and calls for his removal. One official has even said “Glebelands will only be free when God takes Mzobe.”

Only when local government elections were around the corner did the government start peace initiatives. But the community is wary of a peace that will only last until the elections are over.

Despite the death toll, not one per-



R2K activists demands justice for Glebelands.

son has been convicted. Despite the allegations of torture, not one police officer has been arrested, suspended or dismissed.

In solidarity with residents of Glebelands, delegations from R2K provincial structures descended on the police stations in Umlazi, as well as SAPS headquarters in Pretoria and Bellville to deliver a memorandum de-

manding an end to the violence, and an update on the investigations of the 64 deaths in Glebelands. In the memorandums delivered to SAPS, R2K also demanded the suspension and investigation of all Glebe police implicated in torture, intimidation and other human rights abuses.

The residents of Glebelands are suffering because of a deadly battle

for political power and control of the public purse at the expense of human life and service delivery. Activists are concerned that if we don't act now many more will suffer.

“We refuse to remain silent while innocent civilians continue to face these abuses. Black lives do matter and it's time to convict the perpetrators,” said R2K KZN's Thabane Miya.

“If I'm not transparent... You can FIRE ME!”

A community leader who has run for councillor in Khayelitsha has put his money where his mouth is in promising transparency and accountability to his community. His actions may be a lesson on how communities can build direct accountability and political trust in elected leaders.

Independent candidate Tembinkosi Qondela has even signed R2K's pledge, which promises transparency and accountability and states that he will step down or be recalled if he doesn't deliver on his promises.

Life of community activism

Qondela has a history of being a leader in his own right and is known in the community for his activism and commitment as he gave up his job in a UCT based worker's union. He runs an Internet Café in his community. He says this was instrumental in building a strong relationship between him and the community both young and old.

Once he announced his plans to run as an independent candidate, the community came out in numbers which strengthened his support and was the subsequent drive to serve the community even more. The alternative of contesting as an independent was the hope that the community had been waiting for as they were not satisfied with the delivery of existing political parties engaged in communities.

He stated that in the current state of affairs, “we see political parties that are driven by minority who take decisions



on behalf of the majority which does not augurs well for transparency and accountability.” He also stressed the point that information must be made accessible for the community, through various means including regular meetings and newsletters. He also pledges 30% of his salary towards development of his ward, fight for those living in informal settlements, and ree access to computer facilities

Right to recall

Qondela also agreed to sign R2K's pledge, promising accountability and granting his community a right to recall him if he is not accountable. *You can also get your councillor to sign R2K's pledge r2k.org.za/pledge*

Ukuba andifuni uvela elubala, ningandirhoxisa esihlalweni!

uTembinkosi Qondela uthi, waququzelelwa ecengwa lulutsha lwalengingqi ukuba azigqatsele ukuba ngucebha kunyulo lorhulumente wengingqi lalonyaka, ngokwenza oku uyobe ebeka ulwakhono lwakhe lobunkokheli kwinqanaba eliphezulu.

UQondela ke uthe watyikitya isivumelwano se R2K esithembisa ukungabi namfihlo kwanokuba nentembeko noxanduva ekwachaza ukuba angehla esihlalweni okanye ahliswe luluntu xa engasigcinanga isivumelwano sakhe sentembeko.

Ubomi betsha-ntliziyo

Lo kaQondela unembali yobunkokheli kwaye wafumana indumasi njengozinikeleyo kuqhankqalazo xeshikweni watyeshela ingqesho apho wayesebenzela umbutho wabasebenzi weDyunivesithi yaseKapa. uQondela ke ukholelwa ekubeni uluntu kumele lifundiswe ngokwenzekayo nangelungelo lokuvota kwakunye nokubandakanyeka ngokulinganayo. Ekwathi kumele bakwazi ukuququzelela kwaye bakhokele imibandela yasekuhlaleni kwaye bayimele into yoba ucebha makanyaniseke athembeke athate uxanduva kwingingqi ahla kuzo. Ekwathi ke kwixesha esiphila kulo sibona onopolitiki abaqhutywayo ngemva bethatha izigqibo ezingananto yokwenza nentembeko okanye ukunyaniseka. Ukwagxininise ukuba ulwazi kufuneka lufumaneka lula eluntwini, ngandlela zonke okuquka ukuba nentlanganiso noluntu nokusebenzisa impepha-ndaba.

- KwiManifestoyakhe, wamkele isivumelwano sokuthatha lamanyathelo alandelayo ukuqiniseka ukuba selubala:

- Ukunikela nge 30% yomrhulo wakhe kumalinge okuphuhlisa iwadi yakhe.
- Ukulwa notyeshelo-phantsi lwamalungelo wabantu abahlala ezimbacwini.
- Ukubuyisa iinkonzo zolutsha engingini yakhe ngokuqinisekisa ukuba ulutsha luyafikelela kwizibonelo eluzidinganyo.

Ukufikeleleka mahala kweenkonzo zonxebelelwano zamakhasi ombane ne Wifi kwingingqi yakhe.

Ukunika ulutsha uxanduva lokwakha uluntu, ngenkolelo yokuba ulutsha olo lunendima ebalulekileyo elumele ukuyidlala ekuhlaleni.

Ilungelo Lokurhoxisa

UQondela uvume ukutyikitya isibhambathiso esiqulunqwe yiR2K, ethembisa ukuthatha uxanduva futhi enika uluntu ilungelo lokumrhexisa ukuba ufunaneke engenantembeko.

Nawe unga bandakanya ucebha wakho koluphulo ngokuthi atyikitye esibhambathiso ungazifumanela sona ku-www.r2k.org.za/pledge okanye uqhangamshelane ne ofisi ye right-2Know ekufutshane nawe.

Phambili ngocebha abanoxanduva phambili.



R2K Western Cape at SABC studios in Cape Town, one of many protests across SA. Photo by Shaun Swingler

LET'S DEFEND THE SABC!

"SABC is a public broadcaster, and the public has a right to know!"

These were the words of R2K activists protesting at SABC studios across the country at the latest censorship scandals.

R2K has taken a public stand in defence of SABC and the right of journalists to inform the nation truthfully and independently. The public deserves to know the good, the bad and the ugly about South Africa. The SABC is mandated to broadcast the realities of everyday South Africans and protests, violent or otherwise are our everyday reality.

"Hlaudi Motsoeneng is just the chief operating officer of SABC, but he has made himself the boss of what we as the public should know and not know," says R2K's Khaya Xintolo.

R2K and allied organisations have

vowed to save the SABC from the hands of government puppets like Hlaudi Motsoeneng, the current COO. We are also aware that the culture of political interference, censorship of both journalists and political commentators has been practiced in the SABC before the reign of Hlaudi. As Right2Know Campaign, we are confronting this injustice head-on.

R2K activists have picketed outside SABC offices in Gauteng, Cape Town, Durban, Kimberly and Bloemfontein calling for the sacking of Hlaudi Motsoeneng. R2K believes that Motsoeneng has violated the constitution and the Broadcasting Act by recklessly imposing his will and undermining the public broadcaster with absolute impunity. One of the

key demands is that the SABC must withdraw the revised editorial policy. According to R2K's Micah Reddy, "the new policy must be withdrawn and redrafted after a full and meaningful public participatory process."

According to Sthembiso Khuluse from Eshowe in KwaZulu-Natal, the SABC's decision is very undemocratic. "I think the ruling party is behind all this, they are trying to protect the mess that they have caused by hiding the truth", he said. Sandile Nombini from kwaThema in Gauteng agrees. "The decision taken by the SABC is politically driven".

The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), which is the SABC's regulator, found the SABC's new censorship policies

to be unlawful and in violation of the Constitution. This was after a formal complaint brought by Media Monitoring Africa (MMA), SOS Support Public Broadcasting Coalition (SOS) and the Freedom of Expression Institute (FXI).

But now eight senior journalists have been fired by the SABC for speaking out against the censorship. These whistleblowers are being silenced by SABC management.

R2K and allied organisations have vowed to continue their pickets until their demands are met. "We call upon all communities to join this struggle," says Micah Reddy. "We need to raise our voices wherever we are. The time is now, let's make a stand, let's keep on fighting to ensure SABC serves the public!"

Izishoshowu zase-Makause zifuna ukulethelwa intuthuko!

Uma "uGeneral" Alfred Moyo abheka izinsiza ezilethiwe e-Makause, uyazi ukuthi omunye nomunye kungenxa yokuqalisa komsebenzi nokusebenza kanzima phansi. "Akuyona into nje umasipala ayenze njengokuzisa abantu", usho kanjalo.

U-Moyo umholi we-Makause Community Development Forum (Maco-defo), inhlangothi elwa nokulethelwa kwezinsiza nokusebenza e-Makause, indawo yase-East Rand.

iMacodefo isebenze ngokungakhathali ukuze uhulumeni wendawo alalele abantu: "Sithathe ingxenye emihlanganweni yekomiti yewadi; sakhuthaza izinqumo eziphathelene ne-Makause. Lokho kwaba ukuphumelela okukhulu kithi; sagcina sibonwa kuleyo mihlangano".

Amakhetho kahulumeni wendawo anike iNingizimu Afrika ithuba lokubuzwa ukulethelwa kwamasevisi ayisisekelo lawo imikhandlu yewadi ayinikezayo emiphakathini, nokuthi bazinaka kangakanani izidingo zabantu.

Ngenkathi amawadi kamasipala wemiphakathi yeNingizimu Afrika yaziwe ngokungalethi izinsiza eziyisisekelo emiphakathini, izinhlangano zabantu ezifana ne-Macodefo zingene esikhaleleni ukwenza umehluko.

iMacodefo yakhiwa ukusiza abahlali ababebhekane nokuthuthwa okuphoqelelwe; uhulumeni ube necebo lokuthutha abahlali be-Makause endaweni engamakhilomitha angu-40. Esimweni sokuhlala ezindaweni zasemakhaya e-Primrose, e-Germiston, i-Macodefo icacise izimpumelelo zayo

kusuka ku-2008 kuya ku-2016:

- Ngo-Agasti 2008, yakwazi uku-finyelela amaphayiphu okusatshalaliswa kwamanzi.
- Esicelweni sendawo sokuthola umthola-mpilo, ukukhuthaza izinqumo emiphakathini wayo, umthola-mpilo wasungulwa ngo-2010 amakhilomitha ambalwa ukusuka e-Makause.
- Izibani eziphezulu ezinhlanu zawinwa phakathi kukaMeyi 2011; kufaka phakathi amarobothi afakwe ngaphandle kwemiphetho. Lokhu kwakuyingxenye yensiza zikamasipala.
- Iprojekti yokusikwa kwezihlahla notshani yaqaliswa.

Enye yezinhloso ze-Macodefo ezizofezwa kulo nyaka zifaka phakathi



izethembiso eziphakanyisiwe ngumasipala. "Sithetha isinqumo sokucela i-SERI ithathe inselelo ngamanga kamasipala. Sibalindele ukuthi babonakale enkantolo ukusitshela ukuthi bahlose ukubambelela kuphi e-Makause, nokuthi nini". "Sihlose ukubophezela umasipala ukuthi abanjwe izithembiso zakhe azenzile", ungezile.

New R2K activist guide tackles local government!

Exploring the tools activists can use to demand more transparency & accountability

In light of the 2016 local government elections, R2K has published a new activist guide to hold local government and local government accountable.

Local government is a vital part of the South African state. As the part of government that is closest to the people, local government is tasked with fixing some of the most basic challenges we face as a country, including inequality and the legacy of apartheid. The constitution and other laws say clearly that local government must be open, responsive, and accountable. As we know all too well, this is sadly often not the case.

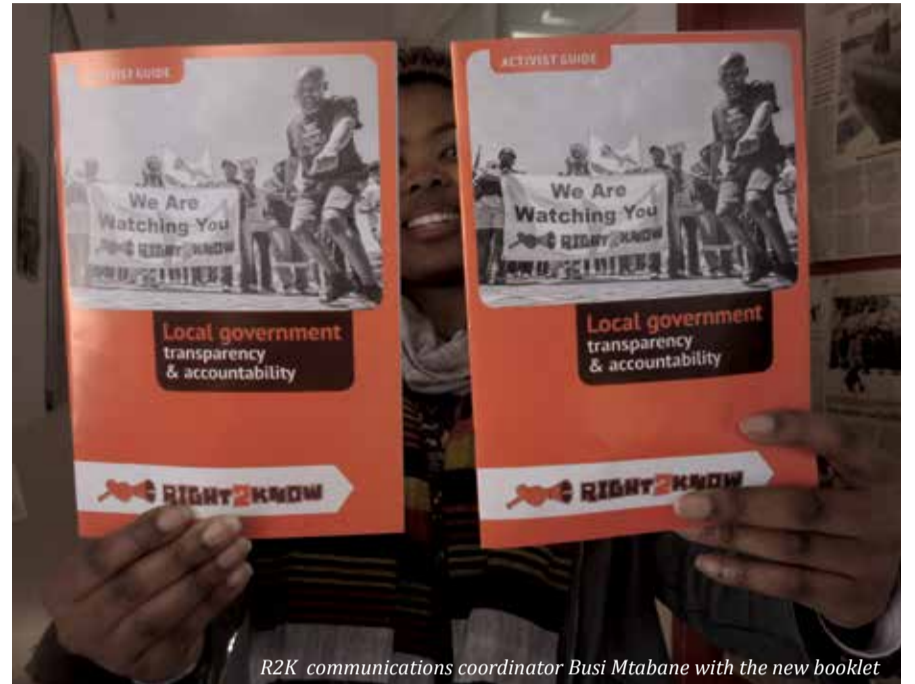
Now that the elections are behind

us, R2K is proud to produce an Activist Guide to help you understand the policies and practices that can help make local government more transparent and accountable.

This guide includes information around the requirements for open meetings, information around local government structures and public participation processes, as well as an outline for a pledge that communities can rally potential councillors to sign.

The guide also explores what options communities have to 'recall' their elected leaders.

Download the guide from r2k.org.za/localgovt or collect from R2K offices.



R2K communications coordinator Busi Mtabane with the new booklet

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We demand the right to recall leaders!

In August, during the local government elections we had a chance to change that. By challenging politicians and political parties seeking election as ward Councillors to agree to being recalled if they prove to be inaccessible or incompetent or misconduct themselves or be involved in corrupt activities or fail to deliver on the service delivery mandate the voters have given them. Because at local government level, ward Councillors are directly elected by the voters in their ward, it is possible to hold them directly accountable too. While they are on the campaign trail to gather votes in various wards, community activists campaigned to have candidates sign a pledge to commit to being held accountable to the people who put them in office. Activists campaigned for councillors to sign an agreement with the ward that comes into effect once they are elected into office.

We have the chance to ensure greater accountability of our ward Councillors; let's deliver on the promise "The people shall govern!" Ongazi Makazi!



Download this guide at r2k.org.za/localgovt or collect from R2K offices!

“Ons het die reg tot herroeping!”

Die mense sal regeer: mag aan die mense!

Ten spyte van ons hard gewonne politiese vryheid in 1994, is hierdie belofte nog nie heeltemaal vervul nie. Elke vyf jaar, op nasionale en provinsiale vlakke, word ons gevra om te stem en die mag om te regeer oor te handig aan 'n politiese party. Ongelukkig is daar baie min verantwoording tot die stemmers van die politiese partye of die politiese leiers. Ons het al gesien dat politiese leiers van al die politiese partye slegte en selfs kriminele besluite met min gevolge maak, en met die onvoldoende meganismes om politiese leiers te herroep, bly die negatiewe effekte hiervan by die mense wat hulle veronderstel is om te dien.

In Augustus, gedurende die plaaslike verkiesings het ons die kans om dit te verander. Ons kan dit doen deur die politiese leiers en die politiese partye uit te daag om saam te stem dat hulle herroep kan word as hulle nie toeganklik is nie, as hulle onbevoeg is of as hulle van wangedrag of in korrupte aktiwiteite bevind word. Dalk selfs mees belangrik moet hulle saamstem dat hulle herroep sal word as hulle nie basiese dienste lewer of die wil van die gemeenskap vorentoe neem nie.

Omdat wykraadslede op 'n plaaslike vlak direk deur die stemmers in hul wyk verkies word, is dit moontlik om hulle direk verantwoordelik ook te hou. Terwyl hulle probeer om stemme te versamel,

kan 'n mens probeer om hulle te kry om te belowe om verantwoordelik te bly tot die mense wat hulle in hul posisies gesit het. Hulle kan 'n kontrak teken met die wyk wat in effek kom as hulle eers in hul posisie is.

Die kontrak tussen die gemeenskap en die politiese leiers kan die volgende in ag neem:

Dat 'n herroeping in effek sal kom as:

Hy/sy nie hul pligte as wykraadslid lewer nie (insluitend om toeganklik tot die gemeenskap te wees)

'n Ernstige breek van die Raadslid se Gedragskode

As hy/sy betrokke is in kriminele of korrupte aktiwiteite; en

Blatante onbevoegtheid of 'n bewysde onvermoë om hul rol te vervul

In dink oor die herroeping proses, oorweeg die volgende opsies:

Die herroeping gebeur deur 'n stem, waar tussen 20 en 40% van die stemme wat in die 2016 verkiesing gestem het in daardie wyk genoeg is om die raadslid te herroep; of

As 2 – 13% van die stemmers in die wyk roep vir 'n referendum in die wyk (bv. 'Moet ... X herroep word? Ja/ Nee') gevolg deur 'n by-verkiesing in die wyk; of

Soos in Venezuela, kan 20% van die stemmers in die wyk 'n petisie teken om die raadslid te herroep. Sodra die handtekening geverifieer is, kan die Spreker van die munisipaliteit die raadslid herroep en 'n by-verkiesing kan plaasvind.

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We demand open meetings with govt

public halls and libraries (Municipal Systems Act, Section 19)

Meetings must be open to everyone. According to the Municipal Systems Act, some meetings, including executive committee meetings and ward committee meetings are only open to the public by invitation, but even these meetings are open to any members of the media (Municipal Systems Act, Section 20 (1))

Any council meeting in which by-laws, budgets, IDPs, service delivery agreements or performance management systems are discussed must be open to the public and the media (Municipal Systems Act, Section 20 (2))

Notices of meetings must include an agenda and indicate where minutes of the previous meeting are available to the public. The agenda must give opportunity for previous minutes to be challenged or confirmed

The chairperson of a meeting controls who may speak when, but should not discriminate. If the public is allowed in only as observers (as in a council meeting), a councillor present may ask the chair to allow a particular member of the public to address the meeting, or else may ask a question or read a statement on behalf of the public

Meetings may only deal with matters on the agenda

Meetings may be recorded, photographed and filmed by journalists or members of the public

Accurate minutes must be kept and made available at least 72 hours before the next meeting, to whoever wants them, so they can be checked and any questions of accuracy addressed early in the next meeting

Download R2K's activist guide on local government transparency at r2k.org.za/localgovt

WHO FUNDS POLITICAL PARTIES?

Once again South Africa has been asked to vote for secrecy. Parties must be transparent!

For the local government elections, politicians went across the country to ask South Africans to vote for them. Some ANC leaders said the ANC spent over R1-billion on campaigning, and all major parties spent major money. But while a small amount has come from the IEC, the majority comes from secret sources. Activists continue to demand political parties be more transparent about their finances.

Thomas Sankara said: "Who feeds you, controls you".

One of the biggest problems with our democracy is that politicians don't listen to the people who vote for them, they listen to the people who are writing big cheques for them and making big EFTs into their parties' bank accounts.

In South Africa today, there is no law that requires political parties to tell us who is giving them money. Their finances are a secret. The ANC, the DA, the EFF and all other parties want to keep it that way, so voters don't know who is 'feeding' them and 'controlling' them.

This means that very rich people, or corporations, and maybe even foreign governments, can give donations to political parties in secret, and get favours in return. These favours could include tenders, or political support for certain policies.

Leading up to 3 August 2016, South Africans were asked to vote in the local government elections. Political parties spent lots and lots of money to get your vote: posters and t-shirts and buses and even food parcels and many other expenses. Some of the money comes from the IEC, and a small amount comes from the parties' membership fees. But most of it is coming from private sources – it could be the Guptas, or the Ruperts, or the Chinese government or anyone. And they could be getting favours in return.

This is a major form of corruption, and it is only possible because all political parties refuse to tell us where the money is coming from. Ordinary people must say ENOUGH. Political parties must be required by law to publish annual financial statements that show us who is funding them.

In 2015, the My Vote Counts campaign went to the Constitutional Court to force Parliament to pass such a law. Unfortunately, although the court recognised the public's constitutional right to know, the case was dismissed on a technicality and sent down to the High Court. On 27 July 2016, My Vote Counts announced it was going to the High Court, taking forward the legal challenge to ensure voters' right to know.

We must demand political parties who want our vote, to give us answers! Who is giving you money, and how much? Who is paying for t-shirts and buses and food parcels? We need to know! R2K supports the court case to get to the answer!



R2K Western Cape picketing the highway KwaLanga during the State of the Nation Address in 2016

Ngeke sivotele imfihlo!

Funa ilungelo lokwazi ukuthi ubani onika imali izinhlangano zombusazwe

U-Thomas Sankara wathi: "Ubani okunakekelayo, nguye okulawulayo".

Enye yezinkinga ngenkululeko yethu ukuthi osopolotiki abalaleli abantu ababavotele, balalela abantu abababhalela amasheke amakhulu futhi benze ama-EFT amakhulu kuma-akhawunti wamabhange wezinhlango.

ENingizimu Afrika namuhla, awukho umthetho lowo odinga ukuthi izinhlangano zombusazwe zisithethele ukuthi ubani ozinika imali. Izimali zabo ziyimfihlo. I-ANC, i-DA, i-EFF nazo zonke ezinye izinhlangano zifuna ukuyibamba kanjalo, ngakho-ke abavoti abazi ukuthi ubani 'ozondlayo' futhi 'ozilawulayo'.

Lokhu kusho ukuthi bonke abantu abacebile, noma izinkampani, futhi noma kungaba ohulumeni bangaphandle, bangapha ezinhlanganweni

zombusazwe, ngokwemfihlo, futhi bathole abakudingayo njengembuyiselo. Lokho abakufunayo kungabandakanya imisebenzi kahulumeni, amathuba ezebhizinisi, noma usekelelo kuzinqubomgomo ezithile.

Ngomhla ka-3 Agasti 2016, abantu baseNingizimu Afrika bazocelwa ukuthi bavote emakhethweni kahulumeni wendawo. Izinhlangano zezepolotiki zichitha imali eningi ukuze zithole ivoti lakho: amaphosta nezikia namabhasi ngisho nokudla kwamaphakethe nezinye nje izinto. Enye imali ivela ku-IEC, futhi inani elincane livela ezimali zobulungu bezinhlangano. Kodwa eningi yayo ivela kwimithombo eseveleni – kungaba ama-Guptas, noma ama-Ruperts, noma uhulumeni waseShayina noma omunye nje. Futhi kungenzeka ukuthi bathola abakufunayo njengembuyiselo.

Le kuyindlela enkulu yobugebengu, futhi yenzeka kuphela ngoba zonke izinhlangano zombusazwe

ziyenqaba ukusithshela ukuthi ibuya kuphi imali. Abantu abavamile kufanele bathi SEKWANELE. Izinhlangano zombusazwe kufanele zidingeke ngokomthetho ukushicilela izitatimende zezezimali zangakanye ngonyaka!

Ngo-2015, umkhankaso othi Ivoti Lami liye eNkantolo Yezomthetho ukuphoqelela iPhalamende ukuvumela umthetho ofana nalowo. Ngeshwa, noma inkantolo yaqaphela ilungelo lomthetho lomphakathi ukwazi, icala lachithwa ngezokusebenza futhi lathunyelwa phansi enkantolo ePhezulu. Lokhu kuzokwenzeka ngo-2016.

Okwamanje, khumbula: unelungelo lokwazi! Kufanele sifune ukuthi izinhlangano zombusazwe ezifuna ivoti lethu, zisinike izimpendulo! Ubani oninika imali, futhi ingakanani? Ubani okhokhela izikipa namabhasi nokudla kwamaphakheji?



Ngeke sivotele imfihlo!

JOIN RIGHT2KNOW

Contact us and get involved in the movement

R2K National Office: 021 447 1000 or admin@r2k.org.za
R2K Gauteng: 011 339 1533 or gauteng@r2k.org.za
R2K KZN: 031 260 2825 or kzn@r2k.org.za
R2K Western Cape: 021 447 1000 and westerncape@r2k.org.za

Other Provinces: 078 030 5192 or bongani@r2k.org.za

 Right2Know
 @r2kcampaign

INFORMAL TRADERS DEMAND TO BE HEARD!

Launch of a national campaign hailed as “iDolobha Esilifunayo” - the City We Want



Photo by SAPA / Werner Beukes

The South African Informal Traders' Alliance (SAITA) has invited organizations of people in the excluded sectors to initiate meetings and put forward their demands for The City We Want.

Cities have a history of being sources of employment and platforms of economic activity that attracts people from rural areas. As we have seen with preparations for the FIFA World Cup in 2010, cities have become increasingly hostile to the working class. In South Africa street vendors, informal traders, fisherpeople, waste pickers, taxi drivers

and conductors, low-income migrants and people who live in informal settlements are still being treated as if they are a nuisance in cities.

From restrictions of movement to regulation of economic activities, cities have a list of by-laws that make it harder for the poor to make a living and encourage evictions. Informal Traders are saying “It is time for our voices to be heard, and to make our demands for The City We Want”. These demands need to go to all the municipalities and political parties.

Every 20 years there is a United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (known as HABITAT). In preparation for this, an international campaign called “The City We Need” has been started. Demands for “The City We Need” are being collected from interest groups in different countries, saying:

“The city we need is socially inclusive. It provides spaces for all segments and age groups of the population to partake in social and cultural expressions. It eliminates all physical and spa-

tial forms of segregation and exclusion, is well planned, walkable, and transit-friendly. Open space for recreation is near schools, work, and home.”

“The city we need is economically vibrant and inclusive. It encourages and fosters local economic development from the smallest informal trader to the largest corporations. It recognizes and protects the specific needs of the informal sector of the economy in its economic development policies and strategies.”

Ke nako ya hore mantswa a rona a utlwahale

Ke nako ya hore lentse la hao le wena le utlwahale, mme re totobatsa Toropo eo re e Batlang.

Nakong ya letsatsi la naha ya Afrika Borwa la ho nka khato ka la 13 July, mokhatlo wa South African Informal Traders' Alliance (SAITA) o ile wa mema mekhatlo ya bahwebi ba kgeswang ka sepheo sa ho qala diboka le bona le ho ba bolella ka dikopo tsa leano la Toropo eo re e Batlang.

Haesale metse ya ditrope e le moo re fumanang mesebetsi teng le moo ho nang le menyetla ya kgwebo e hohelang batho ba tswang metseng ya ma-haeng. Jwalo kaha re ile ra bona ha ho ne ho lokisetswa dipapadi tsa bolo tsa Mohope wa Lefatshe tsa FIFA ka 2010, dlitoropo di ile tsa tlaa ka batho ba batlang mesebetsi. Mona Afrika Borwa batho ba rekisang seterateng, ba rekisang ka tsela e seng molaong, batshwasi ba ditlhapi, ba phuthang matlakala, ba



Informal traders during “The City We Want” National Day of Action. Photo by Rosheda Muller

kgannang ditekesi le ba thaothang baeti, baphaphathehi ba pataloang chelete e nyenyane le batho ba dulang mekhukhung ba ntse ba kgeswa ditropong.

Ho tloha ho thibelo ho tsamaya ho ya ho melao ya tsa kgwebo, ditrope di na le melao e mengata e reretswang ho kgina kgolo ya moruo ho batho ba futsanehileng le e kgothallsang hore batho ba lelekwe. Ke nako ya hore mantswa a rona a utlwahale i mme re

totobatsa Toropo eo re e Batlang. Dikopo tsa rona di lokela ho ya ho mmasepala le ho mekga ya dipolotiki.

Ka mora dilemo tse ding le tse ding tse 20 ho ba le seboka sa United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (se tsebahalang e le HABITAT). E le ho lokositsa sena, ho thehilwe letsholo la matjhaba le bitswang “Toropo eo re e Batlang”. Dikopo tsa “Toropo eo re e Batlang” di

ntse di bokellwa ho tswa ho mekhatlo e fapaneng naheng yohle, tse reng:

Toropo eo re e batlang e akarelletsa sechaba. E fana ka dibaka bakeng sa batho ba dilemo tsohle hore ba nke karolo dinthong tse amang sechaba le setso. E hlakola dikarolo tsohle tsa ho kheswa le ho tingwa menyetla, e laolehile, e na le ditsela le dipalangwang. E na le sebaka se bulehileng bakeng sa boikhathollo se pela dikolo, mesebetsi le mahae.



R2K Gauteng picket in Pretoria at court case on phone tapping of Sunday Times journalists

STUDENT PROTESTS SHINE A LIGHT ON SURVEILLANCE

Student politics have always been seen as a threat to those in power

At a time when there is increasing concern at state surveillance of activist in South Africa, the new student movement has emerged as one target for government spies.

There is evidence mounting that surveillance is being used to target political activists like those in the student movements in order to undermine democratic rights and values. In 2015, Right2Know published a report on how South Africa's intelligence agencies monitor the activities of certain activists, community organisations and unions. (*Download the report at bigbrother.r2k.org.za*)

The issue of surveillance is very serious. South African security agencies are very non transparent and open to abuse, and there is a real fear that they can spy on activist organisations without being accountable to anyone. This is a major threat to human rights.

We currently find ourselves in a country that is becoming increasingly more authoritarian and draconian. The government is facing greater challenges to its power and authority with mass dissatisfaction around lack of service delivery, corruption and its attempts at undermining democracy.

Student politics have always been seen as a threat to those in power. The student movements under Apartheid were seen as a threat to the power of the Apartheid government as seen in the Soweto Uprising and student uprisings across South Africa in 1976 and onwards. Student politics has seen a revival through the student protests of 2015 and 2016. These emerging student

movements as seen with #FeesMustFall that swept the entire country, were seen as a threat to the government as masses took to the street challenging the state around university fees and demanding Free Education.

The student protests have challenged the neoliberal policies that make higher education inaccessible to the majority of South Africans. As a result, they have been met with repression and condemnation by university management and the state. The Minister of Higher Education refused to engage with these movements as he said they were illegitimate bodies that have not been elected.

These movements and protests have been such a threat to those in power, as they caught university management and the state by surprise. It is clear that the state needed to get information on them -- was done through the surveillance of movements and activists as witnessed by students at the University of the Western Cape. After several targeted arrests at UWC, student leaders started to believe that their movements were surveilled.

Minister of State Security David Mahlobo has made alarming statements that indicate that the surveillance of these movements and its activists is not just paranoia.

A few months ago Mahlobo warned journalists that he views certain civil society formations as a potential threat to state security, but he refused to say which ones. He then suggested that his agency was monitoring the student organisations' finances, saying "We know

that some students are given money, by NGOs and other countries and individuals. You can't explain the money that is flowing through."

Mahlobo has been quoted in making claims of a 'third force' being involved in student protests even claiming that there were opportunists who hijacked the movement and brought in other political accusations.

Even though being labelled as "CIA agents" might have injected fear to some but the "born-frees" have vowed to continue the fight for free education in this country.

Where are the watchdogs?

One of the challenges is that the surveillance watchdog the Inspector General of Intelligence, has been vacant for more than one year.

Those who lodge complaints that they are being monitored or harassed by the spies find that with no Inspector General, the complaints go nowhere. R2K has campaigned for Parliament to do its job and appoint a new Inspector General of Intelligence, who must be independent and transparent. R2K celebrated a significant victory when the chosen candidate, former ANC MP Cecil Burgess, was voted down in Parliament, but now the process has gone back to square one with a new round of applications and interviews, and has stalled once again. We must be vigilant after the elections and demand that Parliament appoints an independent candidate as surveillance watchdog — urgently!

Makause activists demand service delivery!

Civic organisation Macodefo uses all tools to make government listen to the people

When "General" Alfred Moyo looks at the services that have been delivered in Makause, he knows each one is because of activism and hard work on the ground. "It is not something the municipality has done as a favour", he says. Moyo is the organiser of Makause Community Development Forum (Macodefo), an organisation fighting for services and accountability in Makause, an informal settlement on the East Rand.

Macodefo has worked tirelessly to get the local government to listen to the people: "We took part in ward committee meetings; influencing decisions relating to Makause. That was a major victory for us; we ended up being recognised in these meetings".

The local government elections have given South Africans a chance to question the basic service delivery that ward councils offer in communities, and how much they actually serve the needs of the people on the ground.

While South Africa's community municipal wards are known for their reluctance to deliver basic services in communities, civic organisations like Macodefo have stood in the gap to make a difference.

Macodefo was formed to assist residents who were facing forced evictions; government had a plan to relocate residents of Makause to a site 40 kilometres away. In circumstances of living in an informal settlement in Primrose, Germiston, Macodefo outlines its achievements from 2008 to 2016:

- In August 2008, it managed to access two stand pipes for water supply.
 - In a quest of a health facility, influencing decisions in its community, a clinic was established in 2010 a few kilometres from Makause.
 - Five high mass lights were won during May 2011; including traffic lights installed on the outside edges.
- These were a part of the municipality interim service.

One of the mandates Macodefo aims to achieve this year includes challenging its municipality on promises it proposed. "We have taken initiative to request SERI to take on [municipality's] lies seriously. We are expecting them to appear in court and tell us what is it they are intending to do here in Makause, and when". "We aim to compel the municipality to abide by its promises they have made", he added.

Download R2K's guide on local transparency: r2k.org.za/localgovt



**FIGHT FOR YOUR
RIGHT TO KNOW!**



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