



LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD! KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

FREE OUR PHONES!

R2K calls for free internet access for all, and an end to RICA spying



R2K demands the South African government to hands off our cellphones!

After years of campaigning and activism, everyone knows we are being ripped off by cell phone companies. Everyone agrees that #datamustfall.

The right to know – that is, to access and share information – is often

called an ‘enabling right’, a unifying tool that every social justice struggle needs to hold the powerful to account. Our cellphones are an important tool in accessing information and becoming informed citizens! In South Africa,

this has increasingly become under threat - with increased mass surveillance that threaten user privacy and high costs of data and airtime that stop people from using the network. R2K is therefore campaigning to Free

Our Phones!

The key demands are for mobile companies to give everyone a basic uncapped internet connection (the 2G network must be free!), for municipalities to increase roll-out of high speed internet in public places, and for an end to SIM card registration and no more government spying on our phone communication.

“Everyone will benefit from universal access to basic internet”, said Katlego Sepotokele, R2K Communication Rights Organiser. According to Sepotokele, “Free access to basic rate internet would help introduce a new generation of data services to those who may not yet see the value of the Internet.” A free basic rate internet is good for the South African government too. The government will be able to legitimately offer online government services to people without burdening them with data charges. This is a legitimate public interest issue and deserves the attention it needs for our growth and development as a nation!

Our economies have become so complex and sophisticated, with the digital world creating a new world popping with information and resources! But the poor and the marginalized are being left behind! Free access to basic rate Internet is what we are calling for, and this will have a

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INXEBA OPENS UP DEBATE ON FREE SPEECH

A Xhosa film causes controversy about culture

The award-winning film *Inxeba* made headlines in March 2018 when the Film and Publications Board Appeals Tribunal reclassified it to X18 - giving it the same rating as hardcore pornography. The film tells a love story between two men against the backdrop of the Xhosa initiation ritual of *Ulwaluko*.

R2K condemned the move saying the X18 classification was an act of censorship. R2K’s Communication Rights Organizer Katlego Sepotokele said “we are concerned that this will threaten the production of films that raise any degree of controversy and uncomfortable debate”.

Sepotokele added that “R2K stands by the right of expression by marginalized communities such as the LGBTIQ

communities”.

In Johannesburg, R2K activists joined LGBTIQ activists at a silent protest at public hearings held by the Films and Publications Board (FPB).

Cleo Shezi who participated in the silent protest said “*Inxeba* was made to express how same sex couple feel for each other and nothing to do about discriminating against any culture”.

While many were in support of the film some were not so pleased. R2K activist Songezo Mazizi, who underwent the initiation rite of passage said, “It’s not that I am homophobic but it’s how false the film translates the process of *ulwaluko*”. He claims that “the film makes a lot of false stereotypes about the Xhosa ini-



Inxeba is back in cinemas with the 18 classification as a temporary measure.

tiation and does a lot to please white anthropologist gaze”.

Another R2K activist Nomacebo Mbayo was also against the film but has since changed her tune. “When I first saw snapshots of the film, I was angry saying our cultural secrets are exposed. After I took time to watch the film, I felt that young men who are yet to undergo initiation should watch this movie. Bandile Mdlalose, an R2K activist in Durban says the issues in *Inxeba* call for societal debate. “*Inxeba* is not pornography and should not be classified as such”, she said.

R2K and the South African Screen Federation participated as *amici cur-*

iae (friend of the court) in the Pretoria High Court involving the FPB Appeal Board’s reclassification of *Inxeba* on the 28 March 2018. These organisations argued that the consequence of the X18 rating harms artistic expression. While judgement is still pending, in an earlier hearing the High Court had already granted that the “X” be removed with immediate effect from the 18 classification as a temporary measure while the case continued. This allows the film to be screened in any cinema to those over the age of 18, as opposed to being limited to X18 venues such as adult sex stores.



2K 8th annual summit delegates/guests. Photo: Ghalib Galant

Fight for the right to know continues

R2K activists gather in Gauteng for the 8th National Summit!

The movement for full information and free expression is still going strong, as R2K activists gathered at their 8th annual summit this year -- an annual democratic forum where activists and members of R2K elected from across the country, help to shape the priorities for the year and guide the action plan for the Campaign. This summit has been held every year since the R2K's launch.

The summit was attended by over 90 delegates, representing Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, the Western Cape and invited guests. R2K KZN activist and re-elected NWG member, Sinenhlanhla Manqele said beyond the summit

R2K must equally focus on communities as well as sister organisations. "It was a success because the business of the day was done, but I feel we could have done more, but most importantly my personal evaluation is that growth is inviting R2K over. It's a question of 'principles vs objectives'".

Unathi Ndiki also from the Western Cape, who attended the summit for the first time said "there were lots of positive but next time we should focus on internal issues including meaning of activism and lessons learnt from our past leaders".

For Gauteng's Moeketsi Monaheng, the summit took very import-

ant and interesting position when it comes to resolutions. "We prioritised them into Primary and Secondary resolutions making it easier to put more focus on important issues. The flagship program (hands off our cell-phones) will separate ducks from pigeons by giving a unique identity we can all rally behind," he said.

While there was a lot of debate and disagreements, the summit agreed to continue to wage a multifaceted campaign in continuing the fight to advance our right to know. To read the full summit report and the 2018 resolutions visit www.r2k.org.za/reports

The People's Tribunal on Economic Crime hears shocking revelations!

We demand transparency on apartheid era economic crimes

BY NOBUKHOSI ZULU

The People's Tribunal on Economic Crime was held for the first time in the beginning of February 2018. Testimonies were given before a panel of experts by civil society organizations as well as individuals and whistle-blowers. The testimonies focused on mainly three topical areas, the violations of United Nations sanctions against the apartheid government, the 1999 arms deal and the ongoing concerns over South Africa's state capture.

The tribunal was an opportunity for South Africans to begin the long over-



A panel of adjudicators heard cases from apartheid-era. Photo: Kate Stegeman

due conversations around economic crimes that have spanned for decades. It was evident that corruption, past and present, knows no race nor political affiliation; it cuts boundaries and requires collective action to combat. One of the most disturbing testimonies was the revelation of the extent to which those in the highest office, not only in South Africa, but across other countries, are wilfully engaged in corrupt activities. South Africa struggles with transparency relating to economic crimes of the apartheid era and not just more contemporary corruption. The ongoing issues of state capture and rampant cor-

ruption are not new to South Africa and will continue unless they are plucked at the very root. The panel made preliminary findings and recommended that the report be handed to various State organs, including the Public Protector and the Minister of Justice. Although the tribunal held no binding authority, the testimonies given must not simply be dismissed. This is an opportunity for those with the authority to use the evidence collected at the tribunal as a springboard to launch full investigations to establish the truth and begin the journey of healing South Africa of the plague of corruption.

Inxeba liphemba ingxoxo ngokuthetha okukhululekileyo

Umboniso owongwe ngeembasa obizwa Inxeba wenze indumasi ngeyoKwindla 2018 xa iFilm and Publications Board (FPB) Appeals Tribunal ithe yahlela lo mboniso iwunika inqanaba uX18 - nto leyo ethetha ukuba lingamanyala agqithisileyo. Lo mboniso ubalisa ibali lamadoda amabini kwimeko yesiko lesiXhosa lolwaluko.

UR2K usigxeke kakhulu esi senzo sokubeka lo mboniso kudidi luka X18 kwaye uwubona njengesenzo sokuvala umlomo. "Sixhalabile ukuba oku kuza kubeka esichengeni ukwenziwa kwemiboniso eveza imiba enobuzaza kwaye nengaginyeki lula," utsho uKatlego Sepotokele, osebenza eR2K njengomququzeleli wamalungelo okunxibelelana.

USeptokele wongeze wathi, "NjengoR2K simele ilungelo lokuthetha ngokungafihlisiyo, ingakumbi kuluntu olucinzelekileyo olufana namatshantliziyo amalungelo oluntu lweLGBTIQ".

ERhawutini, amalungu eR2K aye ama kunye namatshantliziyo eLGBTI kuqhankqalazo olunocwangco kwindibano yokumamela izimvo zoluntu ebiququzelelwe yiFPB.

UCleo Shezi obeyinxalenye yolu qhankqalazo uthe, "Inxeba lenzelwe ukuqondisa uluntu ukuba baziva njani abo bathandana nabesini esinye kwaye leyo asinto isisithuko esibhekiswe nakweyiphi na inkcubeko".

Ngelixa abanye bebenika inkxaso yabo kulo mboniso, amanye amalungu eR2K akakholwanga ngulo mboniso. USongezo Mazizi, ilungu leR2K elinamava ngesiko lolwaluko lithe, "Asikuba ndinenzondo kwabo bathandana besini sinye kodwa ndibona iyingxaki indlela lo mboniso uyiguqulela ngayo inkqubo yolwaluko." Ubuye athi, "lo mboniso womelaka ukujengelwa phantsi kwesiko lesiXhosa kwaye wenza lukhulu ukungqinelana nezimvo zabamhlophe abaphanda ngamasiko abantu abamnyama".

UNomacebo Mbayo, olitshantliziyo leR2K, ebephekisana nalo mboniso kodwa ngoku ubona hlobo lumbi. "Ekuqaleni ukubona kwam amagqabantshintshi alo mboniso, yandiphukisa into yokuba kuvezwe iimfihlo zamasiko ethu. Emva kokuba ndizinike ithuba ndawubukela wonke ndaye ndaqonda ukuba amakhwenkwe aza kwaluka kufuneka awubukele lo mboniso.

UBandile Mdlalose, olilungu leR2K eThekwini yena uthi imiba evezwa ngulo mboniso ikhuthaza ingxoxo eluntwini. "Inxeba asingomboniso wamanyala kwaye akulunganga ukuba ubekwe kwinqanaba elinjalo."

IR2K kunye neSouth African Screen Federation ise lo mba kwiNkundla ePhakamileyo eTshwane ukuphikisa ukuhlelwa kwalo mboniso yiBhodi yeziBheno yeFPB ngomhla kwa28 kweyoKwindla 2018. Le mibutho imile kwelokuba iziphumo zokubeka lomboniso kwinqanaba uX18 zikrakra kumsebenzi wamagcisa wokudandalisa imiba. Nangona isigwebo singekawiswa, kwityala langaphambili iNkundla ePhakamileyo inike umyalelo ukuba kususwe uX ngokukhawuleza ngelixa ityala lisachotshelwe. Lo myalelo uvumela imizi yemiboniso-bhanyabhanya ukuba ibonise lo mboniso kwabo bane18 nangaphezulu, endaweni yokuba ibe nguX18 nto leyo ebizokunyanzela ukuba lo mboniso uboniswe kwindawo ezikhethileyo zokubonisa imifanekiso yamanyala, iindawo ezifana neevenkile ezithengisa imiboniso yamanyala.

Democracy under fire in KwaZulu-Natal

Moerane Commission report on political killings may be muzzled to influence the 2019 elections



Glebelands Hostels have been the hotspot for KZN political killings. Photo by: Nomfundo Xolo/GroundUp

Established by Premier Willies Mchunu in October 2016, the Moerane Commission of Inquiry has been investigating the causes of political killings in the province for the period 2011 to date.

Shortly after the Commission wrapped up in March this year, a damning report Assassination Witness: The Rule of the Gun – Hits and Assassinations in South Africa a collaborative research project between the University of Cape Town's Centre for Criminology and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GITOC) identified KZN, more specifically in Durban, as South Africa's assassination capital.

The report's key findings show a sharp spike in hits since 2012 and draw direct links between local government corruption and intra-party political conflict, and areas that experienced the highest number of assassinations.

The report notes: "Targeted killings include victims who were courageous whistle-blowers, strong and vocal members of their communities."

While the number of assassinations in KZN over the past seven years has not been confirmed, police evidence at the Commission suggested only 45 politically motivated cases were under investigation. However,

Violence Monitor Mary de Haas recorded more than 40 political killings in 2016 alone.

Mainstream media was initially slow to report on Glebelands and most statistics on political killings do not include the more than 100 murders that have been carried out by Glebelands-based hit men – of which almost 80 occurred at the hostel itself. The state has also gone to considerable lengths to divorce Glebelands' carnage from its political context.

However, during closing arguments, the Moerane Commission's evidence leader, Advocate Bheki Manyathi, spoke about the hostel's central role in provincial violence, saying: "Despite compelling evidence implicating the ward councillor ... the eThekweni Metro up to provincial level, are deliberately turning a blind eye ... because they are benefitting from the chaos."

With a R15 million budget, the Commission's work and findings have been paid for and should be owned by the public. Yet conflicting messages regarding the release of its report have come from the Premier's office.

An outraged Glebelands resident claimed: "They just don't want their dirty politics to spoil the 2019 elections."



R2K activists picketing outside Parliament

Spying is a threat to democracy

Government is abusing RICA to spy on journalists and whistle-blowers

R2K's campaign against The Regulation of Interception of Communication and Provision of Communication-Related Information Act (RICA), South Africa's surveillance law, has taken a new turn as the organisation has joined a court case against surveillance of journalists and whistle-blowers.

The court case challenges RICA's constitutionality in the Pretoria High Court, brought by the AmaBhungane Centre for Investigative Journalism after the State Security Agency (SSA) "tapped" the phone of one of its journalists, Sam Sole. For six months the SSA was listening in on Sole's confidential phone conversations while he was investigating the corruption case against Jacob Zuma, apparently to identify which whistle-blowers were speaking to Sole from government.

R2K has filed to be a friend of the court to make the argument that the Sam Sole case is the tip of the iceberg – RICA has exposed journalists, whistle-blowers and activists to massive surveillance and spying.

Other journalists have also been spied on, such as Athandiwe Saba of the Mail & Guardian, Mzilikazi wa Afrika of Sunday Times, and Peter Bruce of Business Day.

RICA requires that everyone must link their SIM card, landline and internet account to their legal identity, so that any communications from that SIM card or account can be traced back to them. The law also forces MTN, Vodacom, Cell C and Telkom to store logs of all their customers' "metadata" for three to five years.

That doesn't include content –

what's said over the phone or in a text message – but it does include information such as who you communicated with, when, where and for how long. This "metadata" makes it easy to find out who is speaking to who, what secret relationships they might have, and even where they stay and where they travel from day to day.

Huge threat to media freedom

Why does this matter? R2K has shown significant evidence that surveillance in South Africa affects all members of society. Journalists in South Africa have been a particular target for state spying, and more recently, even private-sector spying. This seems to be especially true for journalists who have uncovered corruption, state capture, and abuse of power and in-fighting in agencies like the National Prosecuting Authority, the State Security Agency and the Hawks.

This is a huge threat to media freedom. Nobody's communication should ever be spied on unless they are facing a legitimate investigation for serious criminal activity. But journalists' communications are especially sensitive. This is because as part of their work, members of the media must have confidential discussions with whistle-blowers and secret sources who are only able to speak out if their identity is protected. When journalists' phones are tapped, it allows government to target whistle-blowers who speak to journalists and fire them from their jobs or threaten and harass them.

How does surveillance work?

There are two main ways that law enforcement agencies can snoop on your communications in terms of the law.

The first is through the RICA judge. If the police or the State Security Agency wants to intercept your communication in "real time", they need a warrant from a special judge (the RICA judge) who is appointed by the President of the Republic of South Africa. If the judge provides a warrant, this can force MTN, Vodacom, Cell C or Telkom to help the Agency intercept the communication of the user or users.

The second is through Section 205 of the Criminal Procedures Act, which is South Africa's main criminal procedural law. This legislation allows law enforcement officials to bypass the RICA judge to get access to your historical phone records – who you have communicated with,

when, and where. According to this law, any magistrate can issue such a warrant to force telecoms companies to hand over a customer's call records and "metadata" – for any offence.

In either situation, the person who has been spied on is never notified that their sensitive information was handed over.

The one difference is that Section 205 warrants are used about 100 times more than RICA warrants, according to statistics which R2K released in 2017.

The obligation to notify the person spied does not exist under section 205. This raises serious concerns around the right to privacy and the right to a fair trial (where criminal prosecution is pursued). It is alarming that our laws allows wide invasion without any safeguards to privacy.



Go to www.r2k.org.za/signup to subscribe to R2K's free Weekly Briefing email that keeps you up-to-date with the latest news, trends and developments for transparency and openness in SA.

Light at the end of the tunnel for SASSA beneficiaries



R2K activists picketing outside SASSA offices in Umlazi.

April 1, 2018 saw a turning point in the lives of the millions of social grant beneficiaries in South Africa. For many years Cash Paymaster Services (CPS), the company contracted by SASSA to pay out grants, had been profiteering through dodgy business practices, unlawful deductions, unsolicited loans and the exploitation of personal information. They were able to do this because of their exclusive access to the database of beneficiaries and their personal

information. CPS recorded profits of R1.1 billion off the SASSA contract over five years, over and above the fees they earned from SASSA. Recently, the Court ordered CPS to pay back over R360 million in unlawful profits.

Because of the efforts of the Hands Off Our Grants Campaign – led by the Black Sash in partnership with the R2K, community advice offices around the country, CALS and other organisations – the Constitutional Court and even

Parliament have stepped in to stop this exploitation. As of April 1, grant beneficiaries have a range of options as to how to receive their grants:

- Phasing in of the Post Office supported SASSA account over next 3 months;
- Payment into any other bank account of their choice;
- Receive it in cash at a cash pay point closest to them.

CPS has started to charge R10 per transaction on the CPS-linked SASSA account (where this was

previously free).

The beneficiaries at highest risk remain those who have chosen to – or more often been tricked into – opening an EasyPayEverywhere (EPE) account by unscrupulous CPS-linked companies, promising easy loans and insisting on unnecessary insurance products/policies. These unlawful deductions that have been a feature of the CPS contract, have increased through the EPE card which have none of the inbuilt protections of the SASSA card.

Umbuso wentando yeningi usengozini Kwazulu-Natal

Umbiko wekhomishana kaMoerane ungase uvalwe umlomo

Le Khomishana eyasungulwa uNdanankulu Willies Mchunungo-Okthoba 2016, iphenya ngembangela yokubulawa kwabantu ngenxa yezepolitiki esifundazweni kusukela ngonyaka wezi-2011 kuze kube manje.

Ngokushesha emva kokuphuthula kweKhomishana umsebenzi wayo ngoMashi kulonyaka, umbiko i-Assassination Witness: The Rule of the Gun – Hits and Assassinations in South Africa owawungumphumela womsebenzi wocwaningo phakathi kwesizinda saseNyuvesi YaseKapa i-Centre for Criminology kanye ne-Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GITOC) yahlonza i-KZN, ikakhulukazi ethekwini njengendawo lapho ukubulawa kwabantu kuyinsakavukela.

Okwatholwa ucwaningo okubalulekile kukhombisa ukwenyuka okukhulu ekubulaweni kwabantu ngonyaka wezi-2012 futhi lokhu likuxhumanisa nenkohlakalo kuhulumeni wasekhaya nokungqubuzana ngaphakathi enhlanganweni, kanye

nezindawo lapho kunesibalo esiphuzulu sokubulawa kwabantu..

Umbiko ubeka lokhu: “Ukubulawa kwabantu.....kubandakanya nabayizisulu abahlabe umkhosi, abangamalungu omphakathi anamandla futhi anezwi elizwakalayo.”

Yize isibalo saabulewe e-KZN eminyakeni enyiskhombisa edlule singakaqinisekiswa, ubufakazi base-maphoyiseni obethulwe kuKhomishana buveza ukuthi kunamacala angama-45 kuphela okubulawa kwabantu kwezombangazwe aphenywayo. Kodwa oyingqapheli yodlame u-Mary de Haas ubale amacala angama-40 ngonyaka wezi-2016 uwodwa.

Abezindaba baqale bahudula izinyawo ekubikeni ngokubulawa kwabantu e-Glebelands futhi izibalomdanti ngokubulawa kwabantu kwezombangazwe azihlanganisi namacala ayi-100 okubulawa kwabantu yizinkabi ezise-Glebelands – kuwona angama-80 enzeke ehlostela uqobo. Umbuso usebenze kanzima ukuze

uhlukanise ukubulawa kwabantu e-Glebelands nokuxhumana kwakho nezombangazwe.

Kodwa, ngesikhathi kwethulwa izinkulumo kuKhomishana kaMwoerane owayethula ubufakazi u-Advocate Bheki Manyathi, ukhulume ngamahostela neqhaza lawo elikhulu odlameni lwasesifundazweni, ethi: “Yize bekunobufakazi obuxhumanisa ikhansela lesigceme....abezokuphepha be-eThekwini Metro kuze kufike ebuholini besifundazwe balushaya indivalolu daba ... tngoba bayazuza kulenxushunxushu.”

Ngesabelozimali sezigidi eziyi-R15 million, umsebenzi nokutholwe yiKhomishana kufanele kube okomphakathi. Kodwa kuzwakala imibiko ephikisanayo ephuma ehovisi likaNdanankulu mayelana nokushicilelwa kwawo.

Isakhamuzi ebesithukuthele sigane unwabu sase-Glebelands sithe: “Abafuni ukuthi amanyala abo ezombangazwe adunge ukhetho lon-yaka wezi-2019.”

FROM PAGE 1

FREE OUR PHONES

really big impact on the least connected and poor. It's easy! But for now, providing free uncapped access to the 2G network is what is needed as a step to realizing free universal access to the internet!

“Our local Municipalities can play an enormous role by expanding access to free high-speed internet in public and communal spaces! Public WiFi is not a replacement for mobile access but a great complementary strategy. We need both!”, said Biko Mut-saurwa, R2K activist.

R2K also demands an END to SIM card registration. Sepotokele explains: “Cellphone surveillance must be stopped and both our State and telecommunications providers have a duty to protect users' right to privacy! Cellphone surveillance is harmful to our hard-earned democracy.”

With urgency, we demand: FREE OUR PHONES!

R2K intervenes in the sale of RDP houses in KZN

Community members in Umlazi are fighting to get RDP houses

The RDP housing situation in South Africa has been a challenge for many communities. The KwaZulu-Natal government has had no housing list since 2002 until recently. The absence of the housing list has allowed a process where housing allocation in the province is done by a ward councillor. This allows ward councillors to place people in RDP houses at their own discretion. This has resulted in many battles, some ending in bloodshed in the province. It is in recognition of the turbulent outcome of many housing issues that the community of Umlazi ward 86 came to Right to Know KZN asking for intervention.

On 27th of December 2017, members of the community of Umlazi ward 86 occupied RDP houses that had been completed for over a month, trying to protect them from being vandalised. The community then attempted to engage their ward councillor in a meeting on the 5th of January 2018. In this meeting the ward councillor stated that the houses were not allocated. The meeting ended in insults being hurled at the members by the ward councillor and the community members being evicted



ed from the offices by the police.

The community members are said to possess evidence that the houses are being sold by local municipality officials. Consequently, the community members approached the R2K KZN office for assistance, demanding permanent residency in the houses. Through a community consultation, the R2K KZN found out from the community members that the local municipality had said that the houses were under Greenfield. This, however, contradicted with the statements of the previous Executive Mayor (who

coordinated the commencement of the project). The said Mayor had confirmed that the housing project was for the Umlazi community ward 86.

R2K KZN approached the Legal Resource Centre for legal assistance. The community members of the Umlazi case have been adopted by the LRC in KZN and the members have received no further intimidation or any official eviction notices. R2K KZN will continue to work with the community in capacitating the community on how to hold local government accountable.

Ubunhloli buyingozi entandweni yeningi

Uhulumeni usebenzisa i-RICA ukuze uqhube ezobunhloli ezintathelini nakwabahlaba umkhosi

Umkhankaso we-Right2Know Campaign wokulwisana ne-RICA okuwumthetho wokuqapha waseNingizimu Afrika usuthathe elinye igxathi njengoba i-R2K isingene ezinkantolo ngodaba lokuqashelwa kwezintatheli nabahlaba umkhosi.

Icala liphonsa inselelo ekuhambelaneni kwe-TICA nomthethosisekelo, lelicala lavulwa AmaBhungane Centre for Investigative Journalism emva kokuthi abezokuphephe bezombuso i-State Security Agency yafaka okokulalela izingxoxo ocingweni lwentatheli yawo usam Sole. I-SSA yalalela izingxoxo eziyimfihlo zika -Sole izinyanga eziyisithupha ngenkathi ephenya ngecala lenkohlakalo lika- Jacob Zuma, okusolwa ukuthi babefuna ukuthola ukutho obani abebahlaba umkhosi ohlangothini lukahulumeni.

I-R2K seyingenelele ngokuba umngani wenkantolo ukuze yethule ubufakazi bokuthi icala lika-Sole lifihle lukhulu - i-RICA ilimaza izintatheli, kanti nabahlaba umkhosi nezishoshovu bazithola besengcupheni yobunhloli nokuqashelwa okunzima.

Ezinye izintatheli ezike zabayizisulu zobunhloli nguAthandiwe Saba we-Mail & Guardian, uMzilikazi wa Afrika we-Sunday Times, no-Peter Bruce

we-Business Day.

I-RICA ithi wonke umuntu kumele axhume i-sim card yakhe, ucingo lwasendlini, ne-akhawunti ye-inthanethi kubona ukuze konke ukuxhumana okwenziwa kuleyo-SIM Card noma i-akhawunti kulandelele kuze kufike kubona. Lo mthetho uphoqa u-MTN, Vodacom Cell C noTelkom ukuthi balondolozwe amarekhodi eminingo yamakhasimende abo iminyaka emithathu kuya kweyisihlanu.

Lokhu akukubali okuqukethwe - okushiwo ezingcingweni nakomakhal'ekhukhwini kanye nemiyalezo ebhaliwe - kodwa kuyayibandkanya iminingwane yokuthi uxhumane nobani, nini, kephi nesikhathi osithathile. Lokhu kwenza kube lula ukuthola ukuthi ubanokhuluma nobani, nokuthi ibuphi ubudlelwano obuyimfihlo abanakho, kanye nanokuthi bahlalaphi futhi bahambelaphi mihla namalanga.

Ingozi enkulu enkululekweni yabezindaba

Kungani kubalulekile okhu? I- R2K seyethule ubufakazi obuphathekayo bokuthi ukuqashelwa kuthinta bonke abantu emphakathini waseNingizimu Afrika. Izintatheli eNingizimu

Afrika zihlaselwa ngobunhloli ngenhloso abombuso futhi muva nje nabamabhizinisi angasese. Lokhu kukhombisa ukuba neqiniso ezintathelini ezihlabe umkhosi engenkokhlakalo, ukuthunjwa kombuso, ukusetshenziswa budedengu kwmandla okuphathanokungqubuzana okungaphakathi kwezinhlangano ezifana no-NPA, State security Agency kanye nama-Hawks.

Lokhu kuyingozi enkulu enkululekweni yezintatheli. Akekho okufanele aqashelwe ukuthi uxhumana nobani ngaphandle uma bephenywa ngokusemthethweni ngoba benze ubugebengu obunzima. Kodwa ukuxhumana kwezintatheli kubucayi kakhulu. Lokhu kubangelwa ukuthi ingxenywe yomsebenzi wezintatheli idinga ukuthi izintatheli zibe nezingxoxo eziyimfihlo nalabo abahlaba umkhosi nemithombo eyimfihlo ekhuluma kuphela uma kuzogodlwa iminingwane yabo. Uma kulalelwa izingcingo zezintatheli, lokhu kuvumela uhulumeni ukuthi alweise labo abahlaba umkhosi noma abahlukumeze. This is a huge threat to media freedom.

Lig aan die einde van Lig aan die einde van die tunnel vir SASSA begunstigdes

1 April 2018 was 'n keerpunt in die lewe van miljoene ontvangers van maatskaplike toelae in Suid-Afrika. Cash Paymaster Services (CPS), die maatskappy wat deur SASSA uitgekontraakteer is om die toelae uit te betaal, het vir baie jare voordeel getrek deur skelm praktyke, onwettige aftrekkings, ongevraagde lenings en die uitbuiting van persoonlike inligting. Hulle kon dit doen omdat hulle eksklusiewe toegang gehad het tot die databasis van begunstigdes en hul persoonlike inligting. CPS het wins van R1.1 biljoen uit SASSA kontrakte gemaak oor vyf jaar, bo-op die fooie wat hulle van SASSA ontvang het. Die hof het onlangs beslis dat CPS R360 miljoen onwettige wins moet terugbetaal.

As gevolg van die pogings van die Hands Off Our Grants-veldtog - gelei deur die Black Sash in vennootskap met R2K, gemeenskapsadvieskantore regoor die land, CALS en ander organisasies - het die Konstitusionele Hof en selfs die Parlement ingetree om hierdie uitbuiting te stop. Vanaf 1 April het begunstigdes 'n verskeidenheid opsies oor hoe om hul toelae te ontvang:

- Infassering van die Poskantoor-ondersteunde SASSA-rekening oor die volgende 3 maande;
- Betaling in enige ander bankrekening van hul keuse;
- n' Kontant uitbetaling by 'n kontantbetaalpunt naaste aan hulle.

CPS het begin om R10 per transaksie te hef op die CPS-gekoppelde SASSA-rekening (waar dit voorheen gratis was).

Die begunstigdes met die hoogste risiko bly diegene wat gekies het om - of meer dikwels mislei is om - 'n EasyPayEverywhere (EPE) -rekening oop te maak deur gewetenlose CPS-gekoppelde maatskappye, wat maklike lenings beloof en aandring op onnodige versekeringsprodukte / -polisie. Hierdie onwettige aftrekkings, wat 'n kenmerk van die CPS-kontrak was, het toegeneem deur die EPE-kaart wat geen van die ingeboude beskerming van die SASSA-kaart het nie.

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UNIZULU is CAPTURED

SAVE UNIZULU will not rest until our beloved UNIZULU is saved



BY JOSEPHINE NAICKER

“Unizulu had been shown to have been corrupted, badly managed and unanswerable even to Parliament”, this is according to Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education Connie September.

“The university is literally dying”. These were the words of MP

Sibongile Mchunu when they sat on the 2nd February 2017. They listened in shock as Speaker after Speaker relayed the collapse of the once esteemed University of Zululand.

Speakers spoke about the rampant corruption, nepotism, looting, abuse, rape and deaths of students, abuse of lecturers, marks for sex, selling of degrees, irregular

appointment of the Vice Chancellor, purchase of luxury accommodation for executives while students live in squalor, and much more. Yet to date our parliament, the highest oversight body in the land has been reduced to a talk shop since there has been no action taken to correct these criminal acts. The community reached a point where they were sick

of the corruption and on the 12th February 2018 the Community of Kwa Dlangezwa embarked on protest action to save the University from total collapse. As it was apparent that the many attempts to engage various stakeholders from the Department of Higher Education to Parliament had no impact.

This protest action would not have been possible without the assistance of R2K. We as SAVE UNIZULU, an organization formed to help drive the process of rehabilitating the University into a fully functional and highly esteemed comprehensive tertiary education institution contacted R2K on behalf of the community. R2K assisted us to ensure that the correct guidelines were followed with regards to arranging the gathering. R2K even came to meet with us in Empangeni to share documents with us that would better inform us on aspects of the laws including the Gathering Act.

When everyone refuses to act because of “blackmail” where does it leave the futures of a black child? Where does it leave a community that is being abused by losing their livelihood?

Question needs to be asked why have two different Ministers handling education been silent to speak out against the corruption at UNIZULU. A recent article seems to suggest that some may have interests at the University which secures their silence, which details that Former Minister of Higher Education’s Blade’s inlaws have an evergreen contract about a million a month at Unizulu.

R2K to continue to fight for affordable internet

Community Networks working hard to give attention to local hosting

BY MICHAEL GRAAF

R2K believes that the right to know requires the right to communicate, which requires affordable internet. Community networks (CNs) such as the Zenzeleni.net are one of the ways of achieving this. But communities must remember that building their own network is 90% meetings and 10% technology. The process of decision-making about how a network is run is called governance.

Today, there are two CN initiatives in the Cape Town area – both still in the stage of meetings. The iNethi project involves Ocean View and Masiphumelele communities, and is supported by the University of Cape Town’s computer science department. The temporarily-named Monwabisi Park Network (MPNet) is supported by an NGO called Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU).

An interesting aspect of these projects is that they both plan to give

attention to something Zenzeleni has not – local hosting. This means storing often-used content within the network. An example of content ideal for local hosting is Wikipedia, often used by learners as the first step in research. Not only does this have no licensing costs, but users accessing it on their home network have no data costs.

Another reason for local hosting is that information remains local. If you send a message to your friend next door via WhatsApp, it is monitored by Facebook Inc. in the USA. But if you are in Ocean View and send a message via iNethi, it only goes to your friend. In Russia this issue is considered so important, the law requires Facebook to have local servers. But then a new issue arises – the Russian government now has access to the servers.

R2K will remain involved with CN projects throughout South Africa and you are sure to hear more such news soon!

HOTLINE NUMBER
080 0212 111
www.r2p.org.za

 @ProtestZA  fb.com/ProtestZA

The Right2Protest hotline is part of a joint project of Centre for Applied Legal Studies, Right2Know, Lawyers for Human Rights, FXI and others.

OPINION: Is government trying to control civil society?

BY: ALFRED TSHABALALA

The South African government through the Department of Social Development is mulling new proposed rules to tighten the grips for civil society formations and organisations' legal recognition. This move should include proper consultation with non government organisations but so far government has failed to engage affected parties.

In principle, it should not be a problem for the regulation to expend

change on current registration system for the NPOs. Rather, it is a move welcomed as the progressive step to ignite the simplification of the registration procedures, with possibility to open access for ordinary people to easily form these structures with less cumbersome requirement.

The credibility of this measure depends on whether the government can show its intentions to advance transformation and ensure compliance with the rule of law. However, certain aspects

of the proposed amendment raise eyebrows. In particular where it seem to ingrain enforcement of office bearer's rights and obligations, through the regulation which dictate their responsibility on the governance of the non profit organisations.

The call is for the civil society to require developmental space against the imposing of law prescript with the effect to compromise consultation as the critical element to encourage voluntarism, which naturally enables the exercising of

choice in tandem with the freedom of association guaranteed in the bill of rights of right. This is necessary for the realisation of socio-economic freedom.

This is seen as one aspect reflecting the worst set of exclusivity and undermining of the civil society by the state apparatus. This is touched upon in the recommendation of the African Union Commission in that South African Government has to engage civil society on matters that pertain to community development.

SJC and partners march to demand land for housing



BY MHLOBO GUNGULUZI

On 21 March 1960, 68 or more African citizens of South Africa were massacred by the apartheid police in Sharpeville, Langa, etc. In commemoration of this day, R2K

pledged solidarity by mobilising people to march with SJC and other organisations. The government has the mandate to expropriate land without compensation for development of human settlement.

We must acknowledge the

effectiveness in planning and mobilising for about 10 000 people to march on this day given the nature of a lull in Western Cape. The learners in their majority reminded me of 1976 and the following campaigns for quality free education for all

whereby masses came out to the streets in protests. It is important to make sure the right to protest is defended by government in its obligation to secure citizens when protesting. We need to make sure that never again shall people be killed for just protesting the authorities to consider their demands. It is also unfortunate that 34 mine workers were killed by the police for just demanding a living wage. Our constitution stipulates that it is our right to protest when the need arise.

When masses protested against the pass laws, people were demanding a freedom of movement in their own land. The SJC was demanding land for houses in the Western Cape. The Western Cape provincial government is under spending hence more houses are needed, especially for Africans who were not given the right to be the citizens of Western Cape by apartheid government. Even today the majority of people allowed to live in the City are still white people and Africans are allowed to stay far away from the city and mostly living in squatters while money for building houses for them is available. It is time for the black people, especially Africans to come out to the streets in numbers in protest to demand land. We need to support the land occupation as a form of protest by the people who need land for housing.

FROM PAGE 5

Kusebenza kanjani ukuqashelwa komuntu?

Kunezindlela ezimbili ezisetshenziswa abezomthetho ukulalela ukuxhumana okwenzayo ngokomthetho.

Eyokuqala ukusebenzisa ijaji le-RICA. Uma amaphoyisa noma abezobunhloli befuna ukulalela ukuxhumana okwenzayo ngesikhathi kwezeka, badinga iwaranti egunyazayo etholakala ejajini (RICA) eliqokwe

uMongameli. Uma ijaji libanika iwaranti, lokhu kuphoqa u-MTN, Vodacom, Cell C no-Telkom ukuthi balekelele ekutholalakeni kokuxhumana kwabaphenywayo.

Eyesibili isebenzisa Isigaba 205 soMthetho i-Criminal Procedures Act, okungumthetho waseNingizimu Afrika wezobugebengu. Lo

mthetho uvumela ukuthi abasebenzela umthetho ukuthi balidlule ijaji le-RICA ukuze bathole ukuxhumana kwakho ngocingo – bathole ukuthi ubukhuluma nobani, nini, nakuphi. Ngokwalo mthetho noma yiyiphi imantshi ingakhipha le waranti ephoqa izinkampani zezokuxhumana ukuba zinikezele ngamarekhodi

neminye imininingo. Kuzona zombili lezi zimo, umuntu oqashelwe akaziswa ukuthi imininingo ebucayi yakhe seyidluliselwe kwabanye.

Umehluko owodwa ukuthi amawaranti Esigaba 205 asetshenziswa izikhathi eziyi-100 kunawe-RICA, ngokwezibalomdanti ethulwe yi-R2K ngonyaka wezi-2017.



FREE OUR PHONES!

DEMAND FREE INTERNET ACCESS NOW!

- MTN, Vodacom, Telkom and Cell C must give everyone a basic uncapped line (2MB per second). Access to the internet is a human right!
- Municipalities must expand access to free high-speed internet in public spaces!
- All SMSes should be made free immediately!

SAY NO TO SURVEILLANCE ABUSES!

- RICA must be challenged! The government and private sector must stop spying on our communications.
- SIM card registration must be scrapped!
- MTN, Vodacom, Cell C and Telkom must stand up for their users' privacy!

JOIN US!

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