

# Right2Know Campaign 6 month review & strategic planning: R2K National Working Group (NWG) Meeting Report September 14-16, 2012

*From 14-16 September 2012 the Right2Know Campaign National Working Group (NWG) met in Cape Town to review progress since the February 2012 National Summit and chart the way forward for the campaign.*

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## Attendance

**Present:** Alison Tilley, Dale McKinley, Eric Tate, Hennie van Vuuren, Jayshree Pather, Mark Weinberg, Roy Chetty, Zion Onceya. Murray Hunter (National Coordinator), Bongani Xezwi (GP Organiser), Nkwame Cedile (WC Organiser), Xola Masele (EC Coordinator)

**Apologies:** Kate Skinner, Patricia Dyata

## A) Fri 14 Sept: Report-back on recruiting National Coordinator

A team of NWG members had been tasked with interviewing candidates for the National Coordinator job and reported to the NWG on progress: we received over 70 applications for the job, which were narrowed down to a short-list of 7 possible candidates. Over those 7, the NWG selected 3 candidates to be interviewed

by the interview panel. Although all 3 candidates showed promise and some interesting ideas, the panel was unanimous in its decision that none of the candidates had the necessary experience to fill the position. This is largely due to the fact that the campaign has quadrupled in size/mandate since its launch, and the organizational support provided by the ISS will no longer be available.

- The panel's recommendation to the NWG is to appoint an interim national coordinator whose priorities should be fundraising/finances, and recruiting another member of staff to the secretariat
- Mark Weinberg was nominated as interim national coordinator, with the responsibility of growing capacity in the national secretariat in the lead-up to the next R2K National Summit.
- Mark accepted the nomination on the understanding that he would only be able to serve part-time (2.5 days per week) as a national coordinator in the short-term due to existing commitments with AIDC
- This was unanimously accepted by the NWG

**Action point: Announcement to the R2K working groups and plan the handover.**

## **B) Saturday 16 Sept: Advocacy Review**

The NWG reviewed the four legs of the Campaign: Secrecy, information access, media freedom/diversity, and whistleblowers.

### **B1) Secrecy Bill**

Since the national summit, R2K has done extremely well throughout the NCOP process and maintained our position as a key player in the process. Summit resolutions in this regard are fulfilled. However, R2K needs to capitalize more on indirect support from other groups that oppose the Secrecy Bill, and wherever possible should move away from having to react to Parliamentary developments; must be proactive in order to keep momentum rather than allowing other opposition groups to present a flawed compromise on the Secrecy Bill as "good enough."

As concessions are made, opposition becomes legalistic and complicated, our supporters/leaders are challenged to speak confidently about these changes. R2K must position its message in the broader political landscape, identifying specific crises in each of R2K's four 'legs' (i.e. 15 whistleblowers have been killed). Merge the parliamentary legal focus with broad politics that resonate with a lot of organizations – show the links with access to information issues.

**Action point: R2K has to concentrate on a clear and consistent message of what is still unacceptable and why people should be concerned.**

### **B2) Access to information**

The broader struggle for access to information is an ongoing theme in the many struggles undertaken by our supporters across the country. While R2K has done well to promote some of these struggles we have not undertaken this work with sufficient clarity and focus. R2K must be a facilitator of solidarity with the struggles, highlighting the importance of information access and providing national support and publicity for those taking up issues.

As R2K is an activist driven campaign, supporting organizations should take up and lead struggles under the R2K banner. R2K national and provincial structures can play a critical role in obliging support and solidarity. We must take local struggles, identify core issues, and make them national concerns – highlighting issues of national implication.

R2K must frame a message across struggles under the slogan: “Free information, full participation, and fair process.”

In giving solidarity R2K must not get drawn into the technicalities of PAIA applications as this can and will dissipate energy. Demands for access to information should focus on the proactive release of information (i.e. regular publication and the release of data sets).

Our solidarity should not be seen as opportunistic ‘piggybacking’ on struggles. We must be able to release statements and mobilize solidarity that is meaningful to local struggles. To this end we should aim to prioritize a limited number of issues to focus on. The NWG identified the following potential areas: electricity and energy, housing, port development in Durban, farms and rural WC issues, sanitation and water, education, labor, and corruption. Areas should be identified in partnership with Provincial Working Groups.

**ACTION POINT: Work with provinces to identify a number of key issues. Ensure solidarity is facilitated with groups struggling on these issues by prompting “Free information, full participation, and fair process.”**

### B3) Media Freedom & Diversity

R2K’s Media Freedom & Diversity Working Group (MFD-WG) has successfully brought together some of the best experts/analytic minds in this sector and finalized the consensus document adopted at the National Summit. This document serves as a good guide for all our work in this leg.

The MFD-WG are very active at a policy level and have made a number of critical interventions in relation to press freedom, ownership and control of print media and the allocation of digital television spectrum – aimed at ensuring editorial freedom and greater access to print and broadcast resources for community and public media.

The pressure for a statutory Media Appeals Tribunal has currently dissipated – in part due to the work of the campaign. When the Media Appeals Tribunal process (or other attacks on editorial freedom) start again, R2K will be positioned to drive a national campaign against it.

There is a need to strengthen the links between this policy work and the R2K activist base. As in other aspects of the campaign, the media policy work of the campaign should be increasingly driven by the popular character of our structures.

The work has started on ‘the right to call’ – the campaign for free basic and affordable airtime, sms, and data – is an issue that impacts on the lives of all our supporters and offers a good opportunity to undertake popular education and mobilization on the media freedom/diversity front.

**Action point: MFD-WG to continue various policy engagements and run popular education and facilitate provincial campaign plans based on relevant R2K principles and the focus on cell phones.**

## B4) Whistleblowers

The current legislative and institutional support for whistleblowers is very inadequate. R2K has become a national voice of support for whistleblowers, and needs to create more, and more sophisticated forms of political support/solidarity to whistleblowers through statements of support (for example: Solly Tshitangano Limpopo textbooks/Edusolutions, Roberta Nation of Dept of State Security).

However, there is a high risk that by promoting whistle blowing we are creating expectations from whistleblowers that cannot currently be met. We risk exposing people to significant hardship and even danger.

This challenge is underpinned by the drastically reduced capacity of whistleblower support organizations. Whistleblowers need legal advice and support for 2-3 years, and right now there is nowhere for them to turn. R2K has an important role to play in convening a meeting of all relevant civil society stakeholders to explore solutions to this challenge.

R2K should continue to promote the importance of whistleblowers to the free flow of information. We should revive the idea of an R2K calendar profiling 12 whistleblowers.

**Action point: In R2K messaging we must highlight the broader crisis facing whistleblowers (whistleblower murders, dismissals, press gags etc). Produce R2K calendar with 12 whistleblowers. Plan meeting with organizations that work with whistleblowers to discuss feasible support structures before the end of the year. Dale, Murray & Alison will take this forward**

## C) Saturday 16 Sept: Mobilization & Capacity Review

Based on the advocacy priorities the NWG engaged with provincial reports and a review of the institutional capacity of the campaign.

### C1) Provincial Reflections

Western Cape meets regularly and has a rolling programme including constantly monitoring the NCOP process, which may no longer be strategic although it has been historically very successful and important in WC campaign. WC will continue to integrate community struggles with issues of the Secrecy Bill (housing meetings, work with electricity and energy, etc).

In KZN R2K is supporting many struggles, but needs to building communications/media-producing capacity. KZN had interns until June, but has been without a salaried organizer since the contract lapsed. In the past two months the working group hasn't met regularly as it should; KZN wants to go beyond fixed term contracts to employ someone but no clear signal from national office to do so.

Gauteng runs relatively smoothly, has regular meetings, accountable structures and an active community organizer. But weaknesses include financial reporting, rivalries between different community organizations and maintaining consistency of participation.

EC doesn't currently have a functioning Working Group, office, or community organizer, but does have relationship with a number of NGOs and Rhodes University. Issue of the geographical size of EC, where to base R2K and how to move between PE, Grahamstown, is a critical issue.

The NWG agreed to ensure KZN appoints a provincial organizer and that the EC should prioritise establishing a function Working Group before further resources are deployed to the province.

While each province (and National) will have their own dynamics, the following model is emerging and seems to be working well: Each province identifies a host organization and negotiates to bring hosting costs to a minimum. R2K is independent but housed within host. The Provincial Organizer liaises with host, and volunteer coordinator liaises with community organizer. Another activist focuses on media and communications. Employed organizer works on community mobilization, popular education, R2K reports, communication among R2K, host organization, and community.

Gauteng is hosted at SERI has technical support from SAHA, FXI, etc. WC is hosted at ISS and has support from AIDC, ODAC, etc. KZN and EC don't function well currently. R2K should aim to implement the model outlined above in all provinces.

R2K should continue to be a activist driven campaign with limited (paid) organizing and coordinating capacity.

**Action point: KZN to appoint a provincial organizer. National to support EC to convene a supporters meeting to develop sustainable plan for provincial coordination.**

## **C2: Popular Education & Campaigning Material**

While the campaign has done well to develop and distribute statements (via email and website), popular education and publicity material has not been systematically developed and produced. While some material – including pamphlets on various issues - has been produced, material is not generally well distributed between provinces. Video and visual materials haven't yet been produced as planned.

The NWG decided that the proposed National Cadreship School was not a practical priority in the short-term. The campaign should focus on provincial workshops on priority aspects of the campaign.

**Action point: Develop more capacity in the national office that can produce material to be circulated to the provinces regularly and ensure material produced in provinces is shared. Ensure provincial popular education workshops take place.**

## **C2: Consolidating Supporters & build activism**

400+ organizations support R2K on its Secrecy Bill work but most haven't made a formal commitment to R2K's role expansion. R2K should present our mission statement and ask for formal endorsement for the campaign from all 400. Create an online portal for organizations to reaffirm their commitment. R2K should publicize the support to increase the campaigns influence.

Small cheap forms of activism are best at encouraging mobilization, activities that don't have huge political consequences for individuals. R2K should suggest a list of 4 to 6 options of what individuals can do to support R2K.

**ACTION POINT: Get formal endorsement of R2K's broader statement from partner organizations. R2K should suggest a list of 4 to 6 options of what individuals can do to support R2K.**

## D) Sunday 17 Sept: Twelve Month Planning (2012/13)

The NWG reviewed the decisions of the previous day and developed plans to operationalize implementation.

### D1) National Staffing Proposal

R2K should continue to be a activist driven campaign with limited (paid) organizing and coordinating capacity at national level.

However the NWG, based on a review of the current coordinators role, decided that the campaign required additional capacity in the National Office. The NWG agreed to employ a National Organizer once funds were secured and adopted broad job descriptions for the National Office:

<b><u>National Coordinator:</u></b>	<b><u>National Organizer</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Ensure national strategic development/oversight</li><li>· Ensure national advocacy</li><li>· Ensure national media &amp; communications</li><li>· Ensure financial planning and management</li><li>· Ensure donor relationships</li><li>· Ensure sound financial management and audited financial statements</li><li>· Ensure narrative and financial reports are produced</li><li>· Manage national strategic partnerships</li><li>· Ensure campaign impact in monitored</li><li>· Direct human resources of National Office &amp; manage national staff</li><li>· Support the NWG and NWG subcoms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Ensure Provincial strategic development and planning</li><li>· Ensure Provincial financial planning, management, and reporting</li><li>· Ensure popular education and mobilization materials are developed and maintained</li><li>· Ensure Provincial narrative Reporting</li><li>· Direct human resources of Provincial Organizers</li><li>· Support popular education &amp; mobilization implementation</li><li>· Support provincial capacity building</li><li>· Support the PWGs and provincial coordination</li><li>· Support provincial advocacy</li><li>· Support provincial Media &amp; communications</li></ul>

The National Organiser will report directly to the National Coordinator. The National Coordinator will continue to report to the NWG. Provincial Organizers will report directly to the Provincial Working Groups, with indirect accountability to the National Working Group/National Organizer.

**ACTION POINT: Secure necessary funds and appoint a full time National Coordinator and National Organizer.**

### D2) Campaign Constitution

The NWG had already adopted an interim Constitution for the purposes of opening a bank account and having legal status for any legal action on the Secrecy Bill. However this Constitution did not adequately resolve the relationship between the NWG (as a board of directors) and campaign supports (as legal members).

The NWG adopted a membership-based structure. Membership will be for the duration of 1 year. The NWG will have the power to "invite members" to the National Summit. Registration for the National Summit will constitute "completion of a membership form". Members (i.e. delegates to the National Summit) will elect the NWG. Members/Delegate's membership will lapse after 1 year at which point the (newly elected) NWG will decide how to issue invitations to the following National summit.

The members of the National Working Group are also delegates to the National Summit and the NWG is dissolved and reelected at each National Summit. Every member (i.e. National Summit Delegate) will have equal voting rights.

This approach will ensure that the NWG is accountable to supporters elected at Provincial Summits that are open to all supporters without having to develop and maintain administratively burdensome membership procedures that would inevitably result in the absence of necessary quorum at a National Summit.

**Action point: Campaign lawyer to rework the draft constitution then NWG will follow the processes for amending the current constitution.**

### D3) Right2Know Budget

The NWG undertook a detailed review of the campaigns budget developing a realistic budget for the coming 4 months as well as developing a 12 month budget to be used for fundraising purposes. Notes on specific line items follow the budget:

RE F	LINE ITEM		NEXT 4 MONTHS (CURRENT)			ANNUAL BUDGET 2013		
			Current Qty	Current Rate	Current Total	Annual qty	Annual Rate	Annual Total
1	<b>COORDINATION</b>	Per						
11	National Coordinator	month	4	13200	52800	13	tcb	tbc
12	National administrator	month	4	5500	22000	13	tcb	tbc
13	National Organiser	month	0	12000	0	13	tcb	tbc
14	WC Cape Organiser	month	4	10450	41800	13	tcb	tbc
15	KZN Organiser	month	4	7000	28000	13	tcb	tbc
16	Gauteng Organiser	month	4	7000	28000	13	tcb	tbc
17	Eastern Cape Organiser	month	0	0	0	13	tcb	tbc
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>				<b>172600</b>			<b>0</b>
2	<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	Per						
21	NWG mid-term review	year	1	28000	28000	1	28000	28000
22	National Summit	year	1	0	0	1	150000	150000
23	Provincial summits	year	4	0	0	4	7000	28000
24	National staff travel	year	1		0	1	36000	36000
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>				<b>28000</b>			<b>214000</b>
3	<b>WORKSHOPS &amp; MEETINGS</b>	Per						
31	Eastern Cape	month	3	3000	9000	12	6000	72000
32	Gauteng	month	4	5750	23000	12	6000	72000
33	KZN	month	4	5750	23000	12	6000	72000

34	Western Cape	month	4	5750	23000	12	6000	72000
35	Training school	year	1		0	1	150000	150000
36	National	year	1	14000	14000	1	24000	24000
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>				<b>92000</b>			<b>462000</b>
4	<b>RALLIES &amp; MOBILISATION</b>	<b>Per</b>	<b>Current Qty</b>	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>Current Total</b>	<b>Annual qty</b>	<b>Annual Rate</b>	<b>Annual Total</b>
41	Eastern Cape	year	0	0	0	1	50000	50000
42	Gauteng	year	1	11450	11450	1	50000	50000
43	KZN	year	1	11450	11450	1	50000	50000
44	Western Cape	year	1	11450	11450	1	50000	50000
45	National	year		11450	0	1	100000	100000
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>				<b>34350</b>			<b>300000</b>
5	<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	<b>Per</b>	<b>Current Qty</b>	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>Current Total</b>	<b>Annual qty</b>	<b>Annual Rate</b>	<b>Annual Total</b>
51	Publications	pamphlet	20555,55	0,18	37000	1	50000	50000
52	Online communication	months	5	2000	10000	12	2000	24000
53	T-shirts & paraphernalia	shirt	0	30	0	6000	30	180000
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>				<b>47000</b>			<b>204000</b>
6	<b>MANAGEMENT SUPPORT</b>	<b>Per</b>	<b>Current Qty</b>	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>Current Total</b>	<b>Annual qty</b>	<b>Annual Rate</b>	<b>Annual Total</b>
61	Office overheads (national)	month	4	4000	16000	12	5500	66000
62	Provincial overheads	month	4	2500	10000	12	10000	120000
63	Organiser's communication	month	5	300	1500	12	1500	18000
64	Insurance & sundries	month	0	0	0	12	tbc	tbc
65	Equipment	year	1	0	0	1	12000	12000
66	Audit	year	1	17100	17100	1	20000	20000
67	Bank charges	month			0	1	6000	6000
68	Book-keeping service	month	4	4000	16000	2	36000	72000
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>				<b>60600</b>			<b>314000</b>

Apart from agreeing new amounts for the remainder of 2012 and 2013, the changes where made:

REF	NOTE
11 - 17	Salaries for the next year will be agreed by the NWG once a salary survey has been completed
13	A new line item "National Organizer" has been created for the coming year
17, 31, 41	Monies allocated to the Eastern Cape have been reduced pending the establishment of a functioning Working Group
21	A new line Item "NWG mid-term review" has been created to make this meeting an annual event
24	A new line Item "National staff travel" has been created to enable national staff to visit provinces. Currently national travel comes from the relevant provincial budget.
3	"Workshops and meetings" will include training and capacity building expenses
36	A new line Item "National workshops and meetings" has been created to enable national structures and consultations, etc.
53	The line item has been expanded from "t-shirts" to include other paraphernalia like banners, buttons, stickers, etc.
63	A new line Item "Organiser's communication" has been created to provide for cell phone and



	travel for organizers
64	A new line Item "Insurance & sundries" has been created to cover insurance and other office costs
66	A new line Item "Equipment" has been created as currently the campaign used borrows and personal office and telecoms equipment.

In summary, we have a budget for the remainder of the year of R434550. We have R599350 in our account – but a large portion of this is for a grant that we indicated would be spent until September 2013. On specific line items (budget sections) we have a shortfall of R29000 for "management support". We will need to fund this shortfall through emergency funding this year. Our budget for 2013 is estimated at about R1.8 million including salaries.

A summary of our 2012 & 2013 budgets are as follows:

	<u>CURRENT TOTAL</u>	<u>CURRENT INCOME</u>	<u>PROJECTED BALANCE (end 2012)</u>	<u>ANNUAL BUDGET 2013</u>
COORDINATION	172600	339950	167350	tbc
GOVERNANCE	28000	30000	2000	214000
WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS	92000	105000	13000	462000
RALLIES & MOBILISATION	34350	45800	11450	300000
COMMUNICATION	47000	47000	0	204000
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	60600	31600	-29000	314000
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>434550</u></b>	<b><u>599350</u></b>	<b><u>164800</u></b>	<b><u>Est R1.8min</u></b>

Our fundraising strategy will include raising emergency funds for the R29000 current shortfall, seeking funds for the National Summit specifically, identifying 3 additional major donors for 2013 and doing various project funding proposal.

In addition to the income presented above, AIDC has raised money to implement the "All Shall Call" focus of the R2K. This money is intended to be spent by AIDC to support 4 workshops (1 per province), 8 visible protest events in 2012. This could reduce our costs for "workshops/Meetings" and "Rallies/Mobalisaiton" and increase the balance of funds we take into 2013.

**Action point: Complete salary survey and agree 2013 salaries. Fundraising team to put together and implement fundraising strategy. Mark will go to the EC to help set up Provincial Working Group.**

#### D4) Audited Statement

An unqualified audited statement for the period Jan 2011 – Dec 2011 was tabled and approved unanimously.

The audited statement and new 12 month budget should both be published on our website

## E) Closure

In closing it was proposed that outgoing National Coordinator, Murray hunter, be co-opted to the NWG. This was supported unanimously.

### ENDS ###