



LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD! KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

#DATAMUSTFALL

Citizens must continue to fight for their right to communicate in 2017



R2K activists protesting against the high cost of communication. South Africa has some of the highest data/airtime costs in the world.

In 2016 South African social media users rallied under the slogan #DataMustFall. R2K welcomed this call with open arms -- making airtime and data more affordable is central to achieving freedom of expression and media freedom for millions of people in South Africa.

A delegation of R2K activists made a presentation to Parliament about how many ordinary South Africans are deprived of their right to receive and impart information because of rip-off airtime and data costs in this country. The R2K delegation told MPs that the ruth-

less profiteering of the major telecoms companies, particularly MTN and Vodacom, has helped entrench inequality in one of the most unequal countries in the world and called for further regulation to bring down the cost of communication and ensure that #DataMustFall becomes a reality.

"The committee was supportive and they promised to take our issue going forward," said R2K activist Vusisizwe Mpu who was part of the delegation.

Meanwhile, a massive fight has erupted among government and in-

dustry over who should control the airwaves (spectrum) needed to provide wireless internet and cell phone services.

The airwaves are a limited resource and belong to the people of South Africa. But the planned switchover to digital TV will free up new spectrum, creating an opportunity to make communication cheaper -- or to help the big companies make even bigger profits.

In the past, the government has given these airwaves to the major telecoms corporations (Vodacom, MTN,

Cell C, Telkom and Neotel) who have used their control to profit from high voice and data costs and to stop competition from smaller companies and community-owned telecoms projects.

In September the Minister of Telecommunications, Siyabonga Cwele, had to take ICASA to court to stop it from auctioning off the newly available spectrum. Minister Cwele argued that that ICASA's plans would only benefit the two biggest operators, Vodacom and

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LET'S KEEP UP THE PRESSURE AT THE SABC!

The Right2Know Campaign has been fighting to get the SABC affairs in order for the most part of 2016. After Hlaudi Motsoeneng tried to censor SABC news about protests, and even fired journalists for speaking out against him, we decided enough is enough. The SABC is a public broadcaster, and the public must defend it from Hlaudi.

We marched, petitioned in the streets, and even occupied the SABC building! On the anniversary of the Marikana Massacre, we "screened" the

documentary *Miners Shot Down* on the wall of the SABC studios after the SABC refused to screen this important film. To commemorate the International Right to Know Day, we marched to companies that advertise with the public broadcaster to urge them to pull their adverts on SABC until meaningful steps to address the crisis at the public broadcaster are taken. R2K structures marched in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. We have supported the unions and allied organisations who

have gone to court to defend SABC journalists from further bullying.

In the face of growing public pressure, we have seen the SABC journalists who were fired have been reinstated. Parliament has finally come out against Hlaudi's abuses. Five board members have resigned, stating that they can no longer support how the SABC is being run.

But Hlaudi is still hanging on to power. After the courts said that Hlaudi should not be the COO, instead of

being fired he was given another senior executive position. After five more board members resigned, the SABC's board has no quorum. But the remaining board member will not step down, even when called upon by Parliament to resign.

Nomacebo Mbayo, R2K activist who attended the Cape Town march said the fact that the five board members resigned is good. "I think the remaining

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HARD WORK PAYS OFF AS DURBAN PORT PROJECT IS HALTED

Durban civil society scored a major victory on the controversial port development, after authorities announced its deferral until at least 2032.

It was only in 2012 when the South Durban residents came to know about Transnet and Government's plans to build an entire new deep-water harbor at the old Durban international airport site.

There were no proper public consultation and the new harbour would have a huge impact on South Durban communities, says Priya Pillay, head project coordinator at South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA).

"This was rather shocking and worrying as so many concerns were then raised in relation to this proposed development, but nothing was being mentioned from neither Government nor Transnet," says Pillay.

SDCEA kept up the pressure, sub-

mitting comments, critiquing the assessments and demanding meetings with the developers much to no avail. The environmental and social impacts weighed great which Transnet did not thoroughly consider.

For the past four years, the campaign against the port expansion was joined by members from various local and national environmental organizations, ratepayers and residents associations, local community leaders, affected communities, expert specialists, academics from learning institutions, legal assistance and the general public. "People came together to fight this environmental and social injustice," says Precious Mazibuko, who works with SDCEA, and is also a R2K activist.

This hard work led to authorities abandoning the project until at least 2032.

"Whilst we welcome this pause, we



South Durban residents picketing against the proposed Durban Port development project.
By: Philisiwe Mazibuko

need to be vigilant against further developments which destruct livelihoods like the fisher folk and farmers who occupy the nearby airport land," says Mazibuko. These groups will have to move out of the land if the development goes ahead. According to Mazibuko, the airport land has many indigenous veg-

etation flora and fauna and should be protected not further destroyed in the name of profit.

South Durban activists have declared that they have not given up the fight and will continue to mobilise the community to stand up for their rights.

Umsebenzi wokuthuthukiswa kwechweba laseThekwini umisiwe kuze kube unyaka wezi-2032!

Umphakathi waseThekwini ubenempumelelo emva kokumemezela kweziphathimandla ukuthi umsebenzi wokuthuthukiswa kwechweba laseThekwini obungundabuzekwayo umisiwe kuze kushaye unyaka wezi-2032.

Kwakuwunyaka wezi-2012 lapho izakhamuzi zaseNingimu neTheku zezwa ngezinhlelo ze-Transnet ihlangene nohulumeni zokwakha ichweba elinamanzi ajulile echwebeni elidala laseThekwini nasesikhumulweni sezindiza esidala. Akuzange kube khona ukuxhumana nomphakathi okufanele, kusho u-Priya Pillay, ongumxhumanisi we-South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA).

"Lokhu kwakuthusa futhi kukhathaza kakhulu ngoba kwakunzinto eziningi ezaziphakanyisiwe mayelana nalokhu kuthuthukiswa, kodwa bekungekho lutho olushiwo uhulumeni noma i-Transnet," kusho u-Pillay.

I-SDCEA yaqhubeka nokufaka ingcindezi, yafaka okwakuyimibono yomphakathi, yacubungula nemibiko yomsebenzi eyayishicilelwe futhi ifuna nemihlangano nababazokwenza lo msebenzi kodwa kwahlanga zimuka nomoya. Ezemvelo nezenhlalo bezizokhinyabezeka kakhulu kodwa bezingashaywa ndiva yi-Transnet.

Eminyakeni emine edlule lo mnyakazo wokulwisana nokunwetshwa kwechweba uthole ukwesekwa yizinhlangano ezahlukene zalapha nezaphesheya, abaholi bomphakathi, imiphakathi ethintekayo, ongoti, izifundiswa zasezikhungweni zemfundo, abezomthetho kanye nomphakathi jikelele. "Abantu bahlangana ndawonye balwisana nokungenziwa kobungiswa emphakathini nemvelo," kusho u-Precious Mazibuko osebengela i-SDCEA futhi oyisishosho se-R2K.

Lo msebenzi onzima uholele ekutheni iziphathimandla ziwuyeke lo msebenzi kuze kushaye unyaka wezi-2032.

"Yize noma sikuthokozela lokhu kumiswa, sisadinga ukuba siqaphe ezinye izinhlelo zemisebenzi yalolu hlobo elimaza izimpilo zabadobi nabalimi akhelenene nesikhumulo sezindiza esidala," kusho uMazibuko.

Labantu bantu kuzomele basuke emihlabeni yabo uma uqhubeka lo msebenzi. Ngokusho kukaMazibuko, umhlaba wasesikhumulweni sezindiza unezitshalo nezilwane zendabuko ekufanele zivikelwe hayi ukuthi zicikelwe phansi ngoba kwakhiwa inzuzo.

Izishosho zaseNingizimu neTheku zithi azikakuyeki ukulwa futhi zizokhubeka nokugququzela umphakathi ukuthi ulwele amalungelo awo.

AbeEqual Education balwela izithuthi zabafundi ezethembekile eNquthu!

Isifundazwe saKwaZulu-Natali sinesidingo esikhulu sezokuthutha abafundi eNingizimu Afrika yonke. Isifundazwe sinesibalo esikhulu kunezinye sabafundi abahamba ngezinyawo uma beya esikoleni futhi nesibalo esikhulu sabafundi abahamba ngezinyawo isikhathi esingaphezulu kwehora ukuya kuphela. Ngokocwaningo lweNational Household Survey eshicilelwe abakwa-Statistics South Africa ngonyaka wezi-2013, kunabafundi abangaphezulu kwezigidi ezimbili abahamba ngezinyawo uma beya esikoleni e-KZN. Kulaba bafundi, abayizi-210 000 bahamba isikhathi esingaphezulu kwehora ukuya kuphela.

KuMasingana wonyaka wezi-2015, isizinda i-Equal Education (EE) ne Equal Education Law Centre (EELC) savakashela izikole eNquthu. Bathi uma bexoxisana nothisha kanye nothishanhlolo ababekhala ngokuthi bafundisa abafundi abalambile futhi abakhathele emva kokuhamba ibanga elide beya esikoleni ngakho bayahluleka ukulalela ekilasini ngoba bahlaselwa ubuthongo. Bathi isikhathi esiningi abafundi bafika emva kwesikhathi, baphuthe esikoleni noma basiyeke isikole ngenxa yokusweleka kokokuthutha abafundi. Abanye othisha babechaza ukuthi ukuzabafundi esikoleni bekuba isibalo esingama-5 % kuya ku-10% ezinsukwini lapho kusuke kunezimvula ezinkulu nokuduma kwezulu. Othisha nothishanhlolo bathi futhi kunzima ukuba nezifundo ezengeziwe emva kwesikole ngoba abafundi kusuke besamele bahambe ibanga elide beya emakhaya.

KuMbasu wonyaka wezi-2015, amalungu e-EE amashela eMnyangwe-

ni Wezemfundo Wesifundazwe eMgungundlovu e-KZN ekhala ngokuthuthwa kwabafundi baseNquthu nokuthi ukuhlinzekwa kokokuthutha abafundi e-KZN kulungiswe ngokuphuthumayo futhi kusatshalaliswe ngendlela ebonakalayo. I-EE futhi yafuna ukuthi kube nenqubomgomo yezokuthuthwa kwabafundi kazwelonke futhi kube nemali ezophuma eMnyangweni Wezezimali ukuze kwenziwe lo msebenzi.

KuMfumu wonyaka odlule emva kokubhalelana okude noNgqongqoshe Wezemfundo Yamabanga Aphansi, nangaphansi kwengcindezi yokuthathelwa izinyathelo zomthetho yi-EE ilekelelwa yi-EELC, inqubomgomo yezokuthuthwa kwabafundi kazwelonke yashicilelwa (kodwa emva kokuyihlaziya, sayithola ingegculisi neze).

Emva kwezinyanga zokuzabalaza, ukunxusa nokusebenzisa ezomthetho kwagcina kutholakele amabhasi amathathu athutha izingane zasezikoleni ezintathu zaseNquthu.

Yize noma kwakuwukunqoba lokhu, kodwa sisakuthola kunganele, i-EE yayibalule izikole eziyi-11 eNquthu ezin- genakho okokuthutha abafundi, yize noma kade sasicela.

Kumanje sisaqedelela umbiko mayelana nokuhlinzekwa kokokuthutha abafundi esifundeni saseMzinyathi e-KZN futhi silwela nokuthi zonke izikole ezidinga okokuthutha abafundi eNquthu zihlinzekwe ngakho nokuthi sibalule ukungagculisi kwenqubomgomo yezokuthuthwa kwabafundi ehlongozwayo yoMnyango Wezemfundo e-KZN.



A group of learners on their way from school in Nquthu Village. By: Dmitri Holtzman, Equal Education Law Centre

EQUAL EDUCATION DEMANDS RELIABLE SCHOOL TRANSPORT IN NQUTHU VILLAGE!

KwaZulu-Natal has the greatest need for scholar transport in South Africa. The province has the highest proportion of learners in the country who walk to school, as well as the highest number of learners who walk to school for more than an hour (in one direction). According to the National Household Survey, published by Statistics South Africa in 2013, more than two million learners walk to school in KZN. Of these learners, 210 000 walk for more than an hour (in one direction).

In January 2015, EE and the Equal Education Law Centre (EELC) visited schools in Nquthu village. We spoke to teachers and principals who complained of having to teach learners who

were hungry and exhausted after their long walk to school, and who struggled to concentrate or stay awake in class. They attributed high incidences of late coming, absenteeism, and learners dropping out of school to the lack of scholar transport. Some described how school attendance was as low as 5% to 10% on days of heavy rains or lightning storms. The teachers and principals also said it was difficult to provide extra lessons after school when learners still had to make the long journey home.

In April 2015, 500 EE members from Nquthu marched to the KZN Department of Education's office in Pietermaritzburg to demand scholar transport. They demanded that scholar

transport be provided to the learners of Nquthu, and that the provision of scholar transport in KZN be prioritised and expanded significantly. EE also demanded that a national scholar transport policy be adopted, and that a conditional grant from Treasury be allocated to fund its provision.

In October of last year, after sustained correspondence with the Minister of Basic Education, and under the threat of litigation by EE assisted by the EELC, the National Scholar Transport Policy was finally published (however, after analysing the policy we found it inadequate).

After months of advocacy, campaigning, and legal interventions, learners at

three Nquthu high schools were finally provided with buses to school.

While a victory, we still found this to be unsatisfactory, EE had identified 11 schools in the Nquthu area that did not have access to scholar transport, despite repeated appeals.

We are currently completing an audit report into the provision of scholar transport in the Umzinyathi district in KZN, and are working toward ensuring that all qualifying schools in Nquthu are provided with scholar transport, and that the KZN Education Department's draft policy on subsidised scholar transport is adequate.

#DataMustFall: Urhulumente Uthatha Inyathelo



Itshantliziyo leR2K uNomacebo Mbayo, nobengomnye wegqiza elalinikela intetho ePalamente

Ngonyaka ka 2016, abasebenzisi be-social media base Mzantsi Afrika babumbana beqhankqalaza phantsi kwesihloko #DataMustFall. iR2K yasamnkela ngezandla ezishushu esimemo sokuthotywa kwamaxabiso e-airtime nedata. Oku kunxalenye nelungelo lokuthetha nenkululeko

yokukhupha izimvo zakho ngokukhululekileyo kwanenkululeko yamajelo eendaba kwizigidi-gidi zabemi boMzantsi Afrika.

Igqiza labaqhankqalazi be R2K lenza inthetho epalamente likhombisa

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Delays in Digital TV could kill public broadcasting

Service delivery failures and possible corruption is to blame

The move from analogue TV to Digital TV promises to give us many more channels and better TV reception. It will also free up valuable spectrum (airwaves) that can be used to give more people access to wireless internet. But even though it was meant to be finished before June 2015, the South African public is still waiting.

"The process is a big disaster," says media freedom activist Jayshree Pather, "It's basically come to a halt. And a big problem is that the process has been captured by big money."

The move to digital TV means every television will need a decoder or Set Top Box (STB). Right2Know called for every household to get a free set-top box to ensure nobody is denied access to TV for being poor. R2K and allies won a victory when Government promised five million free STBs to poor households.

But there have been big problems

When the Department of Communications started giving out free STBs in the Karoo only 30,000 households registered to get them. Treasury has also said STB production should be suspended after a Treasury investigation of alleged tender corruption.

On the back of this failure, recent media reports suggest that the Minister of Communications now wants to finish this process in 2018. But even this target is unlikely, because a court battle has stalled the manufacture of STBs. The court case is about whether or the STBs will have encryption, which would enable greater competition in the paid-TV market and could allow government to disconnect households that do not pay TV licences.

While hundreds of thousands of STBs had been handed to the Post Office for distribution, in early October

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WHERE HAS OUR GRANT MONEY GONE?

R2K supports pensioners' demands for accountability on illegal deductions to their grants



In October 2016, Right2Know joined the Hands Off Our Grants Campaign at the Pretoria High Court. By: Carina Conradie

In the ongoing struggle between SASSA and private financial companies, pensioners continue to suffer and demand justice. The problem started when SASSA outsourced the payment of grants to a private company, Cash Paymaster Services, owned by a group called Net1.

Behind a veil of corporate secrecy and using a network of subsidiary and related companies, Cash Paymaster Services and Net1 have been accused of trading in the personal information of those who are getting grants – for financial gain. Pensioners discovered that deductions were made to their grant for extra financial services offered by Net1 companies and partners.

“R2K supports the Hands Off Our Grants campaign,” says R2K activist Carina Conradie. “The company entrusted with paying out millions of social grants every month is guilty of corporate exploitation of poor and vulnerable people in the interests of maximum profits.”

SASSA has cancelled the contracts with these companies, but now the companies have taken SASSA to court to challenge that decision. In October 2016, Black Sash and six co-applicants asked the court for the right to intervene, aiming to get the Minister of Social Development to publish regulations to protect social grants from exploitation in the future.

We demand protection for pensioners

Poor people who need grants to survive should not be exploited by corporations who care only about profit. We cannot stand by while the most vulnerable are losing money every month without knowing where it is going and why it is being deducted.

People's personal information must be protected!

- Where grant beneficiaries have complained about the unlawful and unauthorised deductions, they have had very little recourse and almost no repayment of the monies that have been stolen. Net1 have made it very difficult for grant beneficiaries to access the company, to lodge a claim in impossible to get any compensation or repayment.
- SASSA must in-source the payment of grants and take responsibility to ensure that pensioners receive their grants

CPS must pay back the money!

- CPS received extra payment of R316 million for ‘services’ from SASSA. These were based on false claims and possibly unlawful and irregular payments.
- SASSA must ensure that where fraudulent and unlawful deductions have been made, beneficiaries are fully compensated.

Grant recipients fight to get their money

Here are a few of the more than 9750 cases of unauthorised deductions reported by the Ministry of Social Development:

- Ma Grace is a pensioner living in the town of Makwassie in rural North West. She does not have a cell phone but was getting airtime deductions from her SASSA account. The Minister of Social Development had to order SASSA to refund these deductions.
- Mr and Mrs Saptoe, both pensioners from Port Elizabeth, discovered airtime deductions from Vodacom, MTN and Cell C around grant pay day. SASSA had to investigate.
- Mr and Mrs Juries in the Western Cape discovered they were subscribed to a ‘mandatory’ funeral policy by a company connected to Net1 / CPS. It took many months for the deductions for this policy to be paid back.
- Ms Mlambo of Tweefontein, Mpumalanga had a R800 deduction for water from his SASSA account, in a township with free water provision.

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#Datamustfall: Government takes a stand!

MTN. The Minister won the case and days later released the ICT White Paper that proposed to limit airwaves allocated to the big corporations and to prioritise giving spectrum to a range of operators including small and community internet service providers. This would happen by creating a new regulated body that would allocate all airwaves.

There are concerns that the government lacks the capacity or political will to run an efficient service. The Right2Know however has welcomed this move to stop the big corporations from profiteering and promote open access to the airwaves. A stranglehold on the airwaves is a stranglehold on democracy and the economy. An open access system can bring down the cost of communication enabling free expression, access to information, and unlocking economic activity that can create much needed jobs.

Sign the DataMustFall Campaign: <https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/bring-the-cost-of-data-down>

Delft community battles socio-economic inequalities!

In Cape Town, the Delft area was identified by the national government as a place that will pilot the RDP (Reconstruction and Development Programme) project in 1995, that programme will implement a rainbow nation vision where the colour of your skin won't matter and people of different races will live together as neighbours in the area. This has completely failed instead we are faced with high crime rate due to social, political, economic and transport issues.

Nawe Godlo attributes the escalation of crime in Delft to current party politics. “You have people who came to the area because of certain political parties and those political parties use race to campaign and mobilise people, that's where division start to creep in and that leads to violent clash and revenge that promote more crime instead of bringing a solution.”

Amos Ngandu, a community member, says that the lack of health services contributes to high rate in crime. “There is a shortage of facilities and one facility must service 11 areas and that causes a lot of tension and frustration”, he said. According to Ngandu, people will go to the health facility early around 5 o'clock in the morning will leave at seven in the evening with only medicines without seeing the doctor. There is too much anger due to lack of services.

Socio-economic issues like poverty and unemployment plays a huge role in escalating crime rate in Delft. Nomandiya Khalipha said “there are no real job opportunities, those that are unemployed cannot seek jobs, the work that is available is only for three months and that leads those who don't have jobs to choose crime as an alternative”. Another community member Siziwe Mkhangelu agrees with

Nomandiya and said that “backyarders and those who rents are not considered as citizens of the area as the majority are from different parts of Africa and are often blamed for committing crime like selling drugs to the youth.”

Sidima Tutuka said that one of the main causes of crimes is the lack of public transport services in Delft and surrounding communities. “The only transport available, are buses that are expensive and owned by a private company and those who are unemployed cannot afford that service”, he said. “Other transport services like mini bus taxis and the trains are far and we have to walk long distances to access them. It is not safe as criminals are not only robbing people's money, but they also take any valuable goods that you possess”, concluded Tuku.

BELLVILLE HOMELESS RESIDENTS CHALLENGE LAW ENFORCEMENT

A group of Bellville homeless residents have blown the whistle on harassment from the City of Cape Town's Law Enforcement Unit and private security from the Voortrekker Road Corridor Improvement District (VRCID).

This harassment has become a systemic problem, as the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen in our cities. Instead of implementing proper development strategies that benefit everyone, elites control urban spaces through processes like privatisation, gentrification and securitisation.

The poor are being kicked out of the hubs in many city centres through skyrocketing rental prices, illegal evictions and general 'clean-up' campaigns that often target homeless people.

The Right2Know Campaign continues to receive complaints about private companies like the Red Ants about how they violate human rights when demolishing people's shelters or during evic-

tions.

The problem started when Law Enforcement demolished the homeless people's informal shelters and confiscated their belongings. "Our right to dignity, safety and security are been violated continuously by VRCID and the city police" said Punchy Adriaanse, one of the residents' leader.

In July with the assistance of R2K activist, Ashley Louw the residents got help from Legal Aid. "I advised them to apply as a group for a Harassment Protection Court Order at the Bellville Magistrate Court", said Dorothea Pretorius, Legal Aid attorney.

The Magistrate advised the residents to lay criminal charges against the City's Law Enforcement Unit and VRCID if they continued to violate the residents' rights.

Derek Bok, Director at VRCID, says allegations that the VRCID is being anti-poor is baseless. He said, "the reason

for allegations against the VRCID is that a small group of homeless people within the VRCID do not want to accept the assistance of the VRCID to get off the streets."

He further states that only City Law Enforcement is allowed to confiscate items and do evictions from City owned property. The VRCID removes abandoned plastic sheeting, cardboard boxes, crates, and general litter he said.

Louw said no criminal charges was laid against Law Enforcement and VRCID, as prescribed, but he has pledged solidarity for the homeless residents' struggle. A sentiment shared by R2K Western Cape organiser, Vainola Makan. "The homeless people have been attending our PWGs regularly and we will in future do some more work on improving more meaningful engagement with stakeholders that can assist them," she said.

SAY NO TO NUCLEAR!



Campaign against corrupt secret deals goes to the streets

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Let's keep up the pressure at the SABC!

member must also resign. At the end of the day the board will be dissolved, because they have showed us that we can't have confidence in them," says Nomacebo.

Mhlobo Gunguluzi, R2K activist said he is happy that Parliament has promised to hold an inquiry into the crisis at the SABC. "We must reclaim SABC for the public with an independent board, not one that is bias to the ruling party only," says Gunguluzi.

The resignation of five board members is a sign that our campaign is not in vain. When we initiated a campaign for a censorship-free SABC, we also demanded that the board be dissolved and be constituted through an open and democratic process. Since our unceasing activism, the political will to clean up the SABC has heightened and we hope that with continued vigilance, things will change for the better.

R2K remains committed in defending the public broadcaster from political interference. The public deserves a public broadcaster that provides public interest programming of the highest standard and news that is critical, accurate and not politically partisan.

Ongazi Makazi!

Bellville hawelose inwoners daag wetstoepassing uit!

In Suid-Afrika word die ongelykheid tussen die arm en die ryk al hoe groter omdat die regering nie behoorlike dienste en werkseleenthede aan die armes en die agtergeblewenis verskaf nie.

In plaas van behoorlike ontwikkelingsstrategieë wat vir almal bevoordeel, sien ons meer en meer die tendens waar die rykes die stedelike areas beheer deur prosesse soos privatisering, gentrifikasie en sekuritisasie

Arm mense word uit die middestede geskop deur stygende huurpryse, onwettige uitsettings en algemene 'skoonmaak' veldtogte wat dikwels hawelose mense teiken.

Die Right2Know Campaign kry aanhoudend klagtes oor private maatskappye soos die Red Ants oor hoe hulle menseregte oortree wanneer hulle mense se behuising sloop tydens uitsettings.

'n Groep hawelose mense in Bellville sê hulle ervaar al vir jare teistering van die stad Kaapstad se wetstoepasserseenheid en van private sekuriteit van die Voortrekker Straat Gang Verbeteringsdistrik (VRCID).

In 2015 het die wetstoepassers die hawelose mense se informele skuilings gesloop en die materiaal afgevat. Die hawelose mense het probeer om terug te baklei maar sonder sukses. "Ons reg tot menswaardigheid, veiligheid en sekuriteit word aanhoudend deur die VRCID en die stad se polisie oortree,"

sê Punchy Adriaanse, een van die leiers van die inwoners.

In Julie, met die hulp van R2K aktivis, Ashley Louw, het die inwoners met die leierskap van die Right2Know in die Weskaap ontmoet en hul probleme na die Legal Resources Centre geneem, vanwaar hulle na die Legal Aid Board verwys is. "Ek het hulle aangeraai om as 'n groep vir 'n "Teistering Beskerming Hofbevel" by die Bellville Landdroshof aansoek te doen," sê Dorothea Pretorius, Legal Aid Board prokureur.

Die eerste hofaansoek is op die 14de Julie 2016 voorgelê en Mr Louw is deur die hof aangestel om namens die groep aansoek te doen. Hy sê die hof het die aansoek afgewys. "Hulle het eers ons aansoek opgemerk maar geen redes gegee vir die afwys van die aansoek nie, wat enige persoon kan sien is nodig," het Mr Louw

Pretorius het toe vir die groep aangeraai om 'n tweede aansoek te doen. Sy het verduidelik dat die tweede aansoek moet vra vir gedetailleerde redes as die hof nie wil voortgaan met die aansoek nie," het Adriaanse verduidelik. Die tweede aansoek was gelukkig 'n sukses! Die landdroshof het aangeraai dat die inwoners kriminele sake teen die stad se wetstoepassers en die VRCID lê as hulle weer die inwoners se regte oortree.

Volgens Derek Bok, die direkteur van VRCID, is die klagtes dat VRCID an-

ti-arm mense is sonder basis. "Die rede vir die klagtes teen die VRCID is dat die hawelose mense binne die VRCID nie die hulp van die VRCID wil aanvaar om van die straat af te kom nie," sê hy. Hy het ook gesê dat die stad se wetstoepassers items mag konfiskeer en mense mag uitskop van die stad se grond. "Ek weet nie wat die stad doen met sulke items nie. Wat ons van die strate verwyder is plastiek lakens, karton bokse, kratte en algemene rommel."

"As deel van ons toewyding tot die pleidoor van die hawelose en ander kwesbare mense in die VRCID area het ons 'n voltydse sosiale ontwikkelingsbestuurder en twee veldwerkers wat ook met hawelose mense daagliks werk," verduidelik Bok. Hy sê die VRCID werk ook met 'n NGO met die naam M.E.S om mense wat op die straat leef te help om werk te kry, en die VRCID help met maandelikse toelae vir die wat wil werk.

Louw sê dat geen kriminele klagtes teen die wetstoepassers en VRCID gelê is nie, maar hy het sy ondersteuning aan die huislose mense beloof. Dit word gedeel deur die R2K Weskaapse organiseerder, Vainola Makan: "Die hawelose mense kom dikwels na ons vergaderings en in die toekoms sal ons verder saamwerk om behoorlike betrokkenheid met ander organisasies en groepe wat hulle kan help te fasiliteer."



About 1500 members of the LHC decided to occupy unused land in Middleburg. By: Bongani Xezwi

MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY OCCUPIES VACANT MUNICIPAL LAND

On the 31 October 2016, the Landless and Homeless Community (LHC) in Middleburg decided to take matters to their own hands after the Steve Tshwete Municipality failed to fulfil its promises of building decent houses for all.

About 1500 members of the LHC decided to occupy unused land in Middleburg after realizing that the municipality had failed to meet their service delivery demands. The community has been requesting for RDP houses because they say the current houses are too small to accommodate families especially those with extended families.

“What the community has been seeing is that the municipality is selling land to the rich while the poor

are put on hold,” said the community leader, Elvis Mahlangu. That has triggered the community to say enough is enough. “We are no longer going to watch this happen in front of us so we are taking matters into our own hands”, Mahlangu reiterated.

Shortly after the occupation, members of the community received a court interdict that said they should move from the occupied land. But the community decided to enlist services of a private lawyer to fight the interdict in court.

The matter was heard on the 3rd November 2016, but was postponed to the 29 November 2016. “We are more determined to fight for this land, we are going to mobilize ourselves and be ready to protest for our land,”

said Bafana Hlatshwayo, a community activist.

According to the leaders, the community wants to make sure that on Tuesday the 29th of November all members of the Landless and Homeless community march to court to demand for the withdrawal of the court interdict.

“We know that some of us are going to be arrested, some will fear and leave us, some will sell out BUT this is the struggle that will benefit our children, said Mahlangu.

If indeed the community hears the call, this means more than 1500 people will be marching in the CBD in Middleburg on the day.

Long live the land struggle!!!

Principles of Grassroots engagement

Lessons from DDP workshop on engagement

- Amplifying the voices of silent members by bringing them to the centre
- Releasing individual gifts by focusing on issues where positive inputs can be made (identifying the challenges the Community is facing now)
- Highlighting the importance of commitment to the task at hand
- Learning about the art of conversation (how to have a good conversation)
- Rejecting the collective “we” (talking for yourself/voicing your opinion)
- Applying the power of dissent (“yes” means nothing if you can’t say “no”)
- Changing problems into possible action steps (what are the options?)

A luta continua!

#DATAMUSTFALL: URHULUMENTE UTHATHA INYATHELO

from page 3

indlela ubani- nobani eMzantsi Afrika athintelwa ekuxhamleni kwilungelo lokufumana nokudlulisa ulwazi ngenxa yobugebenga bamaxabiso eairtime neendleko zedata kweli. Igqiza leR2K lixelele Amalungu Epalamente ukuba urhwaphilizo-ngeniso lemizi-mveliso emikhulu yezonxibelelwano lomoya, ingakumbi uMTN no Vodacom, lwandise ukungalingani kwelinye lamazwe engalinganiyo kweli limiweyo, laphakamisa ligxininisa isidingo sowing-mthetho oqatha nozakwehlisa amaxabiso onxibelelwano, ntoleyo iyakuthi ifezekise iphulo lwe #DataMustFall.

“Ikomiti isinike inkxaso futhi yathembisa ukuwuqhubela phambili umbandela wethu”, liphefumle ngelithshoyi itshantliziyo leR2K uVusisizwe Mpu, nobengomnye wegqiza elo.

Kwananjalo, kukho mfazwe iqhabalakayo phakathi kuka rhulumente nabezoshishino lonxibelelwano, kuxambululiswa ngegunya lokulawula imiyezo yezomoya, nedingekayo kuni-

kezelo lweenkonzo zonxibelelwano zombane (internet) nezoonomyayi (cellphones). Imiyezo yomoya inqongophele kwaye yeyawo wonke ummi wase Mzantsi Afrika. Kodwa uguqulelo kwi digital television olo lucetyiweyo luzakukhulula imiyezo emitsha, liveze ithuba lokwenza unxibelelwano lufikeleleke-kungenjalo lube yindlela yokunceda amashishini ezonxibelelwano enze ingeniso enkulu ukodlula le asele eyenza.

Kwixela elingaphambili urhulumente weli ebedla ngokunikeza ulawulo lamiyezo kwimizi-mveliso emikhulu yezonxibelelwano lomoya (Vodacom, MTN, Cell C, Telkom, Neotel), neyona ibiqhele ukusebenzisa ulawulo olo ekufumaneni ingeniso kwiindleko eziphezulu zencoko yomnxeba namaxabiso athexaxa edata nasekuthinteleni ukhuphiswano oluvela kumashishini amancinane namaphulo oluntu ezonxibelelwano.

KweyoMsintsi, uMphathiswa Wezonxibelelwano-moya uSiyabonga Cwele kunyanzeleke ukuba ase iCASA enkundleni ngelinqanda ukuthengiswa

bucala kwemiyezo yomoya efumaneke kutshanje. UMphathiswa waphikisa ngelithi icebo le ICASA lizakuba nengeniso kumashishinikazi amabini kuphela, uMTN no Vodacom. Waliphumelela ityala enkundleni uMphathiswa, waze wathi kwiintsukwana ezilandelayo waseka Iphepha Elimhlophe le ITC, nebelingumceli-mngeni wokunciphisa imiyezo yomoya enikwa imizi-mveliso emikhulu, ntoleyo iyakunika uqwalasele ekubalulekeni kokunikezwa kwamiyezo yomoya kuluhlu olubanzi oluqakana namashishini asakhasayo kwanamaphulo oluntu ezonxibelelwano lomoya. Oko kungenzeka ngokuthi kusekwe umbutho osemthethweni noyakuthi ubenoxanduva lokunikisa ngemiyezo yomoya yonke.

Bambi bavakalisa inkxalabo ukuba urhulumente anganaso kusinina isakhono okanye umdla ngokungqamene nezopolitiko ekutheni anikezele ngalenzeka ngendlela eyiyo. iRight2Know ilamneke elinyathelo linjongo ikukunqanda urhwaphilizo lemizi-mveliso emikhulu ngokuthi kukhuthazwe ukuvuleka kwamathu-

ba okusebenzisa imiyezo yomoya. Ukukrwitshwa kwemiyezo yomoya kukrwitshwa kwenkqubo yolawulo lwentando yoninzi kwanezorhwebo. Inkqubo efikelekayo ingehlisa iindleko zonxibelelwano ikhuthaze ukukhuthshwa kwezimvo ngokukhululekileyo, ufikeleleko lolwazi, nokuvula amathuba orhwebo nanokuthi aze nengqesho.

Ubusazi ukuba uluntu lungazenzela amajelo onxibelelwano ngokunokwalo?

Yenza uphando ngenkqubo yeZenzeleni, nalapho abahlali belali ethile yaseMpu-ma-Koloni baziqalele ijelo labo lonxibelelwano elibongela imali, libaxhumanise nabamelwana babo, kwaye libanike indlela yokunqwanqwada ubomi babo! Zifundele ngokuthethevetshe kwa r2k.org.za/zenzeleni.



Members of the Lephalele Unemployment Forum marching to Medupi Power Station. By: Bongani Xezwi

LEPHALALE UNEMPLOYMENT FORUM CHALLENGES CORRUPT POLITICIANS AND CORPORATES

The Lephalele Unemployment Forum (LUF) in Limpopo was formed in 2014, fighting for equal job opportunities in Marapong community and Lephalele at large. "Our main vision is to make sure that we fight against the corrupt politicians and corporate companies. And we want to see community members employed and enjoying the fruits of democracy, however this is not possible because of our corrupt Mayor Jack Moloko Maeko," said LUF spokesperson Thabo Raliwedzha.

According to the members of LUF,

the Mayor has been using his political power to influence big corporate companies like Medupi, Matimba and Exxaro coal mine on giving job opportunities to members of the African National Congress (ANC). These three big companies are situated in and around Lephalele.

"We are very much aware of the environmental and health hazard caused by these companies in our communities and to the country at large. All that they can do in return of our health and air polluting our communities because

of coal, is them not to let us die in poverty," said Raliwedzha.

According one of LUF leaders, Andries Mocheke, they have marched to all listed companies and submitted memorandums requesting them to take full responsibilities of the communities and also requesting a fair process when hiring the community. "However, we tried to get the Mayor of Lephalele to talk about these issues and he's always not available to meet us," he further states.

"We then decided to march to his office and submitted a memorandum of demands on the 15 June 2016, till today there is no response. That is how much the Mayor fails us and we promise to continue doing our best to make sure that he finally realizes that the power is with communities not him", said Mocheke.

With the recent release of the state capture report, the forum claimed to be more determined to fight against the corrupt politicians and corporate companies. The community of Lephalele is planning to host an "imbizo" (a public mass meeting) with the new Public Protector, the Mayor and the three big companies to address these concerns in public where the community will have an opportunity to voice out their concerns.

Foramo ya Badudi ba Lephalele ba go se Šome Kgahlanong le boradipolitiki ba bomenetša le dikhamphani!

Foramo ya Badudi ba Lephalele ba go se Šome (Lephalele Unemployment Forum (LUF)) kua Limpopo e hlamilwe ka 2014, e le go lwela gore batho ba hwetše mešomo ya go leka motseng wa Marapong le Lephalele ka kakaretšo. Mmoleledi wa LUF, Thabo Raliwedzha o re: "Morero wa rena o mogolo ke go tšhetša gore re lwantšha boradipolitiki ba bomenetša le dikhamphani tšeo di dirišanago le bona. E bile re nyaka go bona ditho tša setšhaba di na le mešomo e bile di thabela ditlamorago tša temokrasi, eupša se ga se kgonege ka lebaka la Meyara wa rena wa tsotsi e lego Jack Moloko Maeko."

Go ya ka ditho tša LUF, Meyara o be a dutše a diriša matla a gagwe a bopolitiki go tutuetša dikhamphani tše dikgolo tša go swana le Medupi, Matimba le mmaene wa malahle wa Exxaro gore di nee feela ditho tša African National Congress (ANC) mešomo. Dikhamphani tše tše dikgolo di gona kua Lephalele le metseng ya kgauswi le gona.

Raliwedzha o re: "Re tloga re lemoga gabotse kamo dikhamphani tše di beilego maphelo a batho kotsing ka gona ka go senya tikologo le naga ka kakaretšo. Seo feela ba ka re thušago ka sona ka morago ga gore ba bee maphelo a rena kotsing ka go senya moya tikologong ya rena ka baka la malahle, ke gore ba se re tlogele re bolawa le ke tla."

Go ya ka yo mongwe wa baetapele ba LUF, e lego Andries Mocheke, ba ile ba dira megwanto go ya go dikhamphani tše go bolelwago ka tšona gomme ba fihliša dipelaelo tša bona gore ba ikarabelele ka tikologo ka moka le go kgopela gore go se šongwe sepitšaga go newa batho mešomo. Ge a tšwela pele o re: "Lega go le bjalo, re lekile go ikopanya le Meyara wa Lephalele gore re boledišane ka ditaba tše, eupša o dula a re botša gore o swaregile kudu go ka boledišana le rena."

Mocheke o re: "Ke moka re ile ra dira phetho ya gore re gwantele diofising tša gagwe gomme re fihliše dipelaelo tša rena ka di-15 June 2016, le lehono re sa beile mokganya phatleng. Ye ke yona tsela yeo Meyara a swarago setšhaba sa gagwe ka yona, eupša re ka se hwe matwa go fihlela a lemoga gore matla a pušo a matsong a setšhaba e sego magetleng a gagwe."

Ka ge go sa tšwa go lokolwa pego ya ditšhelete ya naga, foramo ye e ikemišeditše go lwantšha bomonetša bja boradipolitiki le dikhamphani tšeo di šomago le bona. Setšhaba sa Lephalele se ikemišeditše go dira "imbizo" (sebo-ka sa mogwanto sa batho bohle) gore Mošireletši wa Setšhaba, Meyara le Dikhamphani tše tharo tše dikgolo tšeo di akaretšwago di boledišane ka taba ye pele ga batho ka moka moo setšhaba se tla fiwago sebaka sa go ntšha maikwelo a sona.

Delays in Digital TV could kill public broadcasting



R2K activists picketing outside the Universal Service & Access Agency of South Africa (USAASA), the government agency tasked with rolling out Set Top Boxes. By: Bongani Xezwi

from page 3

government announced it will close 221 post offices. This is also likely to slow down the rollout of Digital TV as the Post Office is responsible for distributing subsidised STBs for poor users.

As if sensing a disaster in the pipeline, Minister Muthambi has backed out of her previous position that people would need valid TV licenses to get a subsidised STB. In so doing she vindicated a call R2K made two years ago.

Low public awareness

International experience shows that public awareness is key to successful digital migration - the public must know about digital TV and how to access it. The Department of Communications has not embarked on a mass public awareness campaign. The Special Investigating Unit is investigating the R756m tender awarded to Media Corner, an advertising companies, for awareness campaigns.

Public broadcasting suffering

What should be even more concerning is that the SABC's latest annual report shows that the SABC's average audience share is down to 49% from 57% four years ago. As the switch to Digital TV falters more and more people are abandoning public broadcasting and moving to private satellite TV, dominated by Naspers/DSTV.

Jayshree warns: "If government does not act this could see the death of public broadcasting, leaving South Africa dependent on a commercial monopoly to receive our television news and entertainment."

Duduetsang Makuse of the SOS Coalition also warns that the delay in digital migration also means airwaves that could be used to bring down the cost of mobile communication is not being made available. "If you dig a little deeper, you will see that this means mobile operators continue to grossly overcharge citizens for data. It means cost of communicating remains high and possibly increases."

The Digital TV money - R8.5billion and still no delivery

Sentech

- R1,94 billion for rolling out digital broadcasting network
- R330 million for dual illumination

SABC

- R30 million for DTT pilot programme
- R1.9 billion for content costs, broadcast facilities and dual illumination
- R203 million for the digital library and digital play-out centre
- R140 million for the DTT awareness campaign

Department of Communications

- R756 million planned expenditure on DTT awareness campaign with Media Corner
- R5.7 million on travel and subsistence because of increased travel related to the implementation of the DTT project

USAASA

- R1.5 billion for set-top box subsidy scheme
- R86 million capacity building for set-top box subsidy scheme

USAF (Universal Service and Access Fund)

- R1.48 billion for the set-top box subsidy scheme

Icasa

- R110 million digital terrestrial television (DTT) regulation expenditure

Further spending

- Usaasa is scheduled for another R861 million in funding between 2016 and 2018.
- The SABC is due to get another R68 million in 2016/17 for the digital library and digital play-out centre.

Info from theconmag.co.za in partnership with SOS Coalition



2016 saw lots of ups and downs in South Africa's democracy. Here are some of the milestones for the right to know in 2016

2016 IN REVIEW

13 Jan: Police arrest a citizen who is recorded police brutality on his phone. R2K campaigns for SAPS to protect the rights of that citizens have a right to photograph and film police

27 Jan: R2K rejects the call to regulate over the top services (OTTs) such as WhatsApp and Skype

4 Feb: R2K challenges Julius Malema's threatens to ANN7 and The New Age reporters

11 Feb: R2K raises the alarm as Parliament is militarised to limit protest at the President's State of the Nation Address

22 Feb: R2K campaigns for Parliament to appoint a new inspector-general of intelligence, the watchdog on surveillance

24 Feb: On Budget Day, R2K pickets for a people's budget that invests in democracy and openness

7 Mar: R2K presents concerns about SA's mass surveillance at the United Nations

21 Mar: On Human Rights Day R2K publishes a new Activist Guide to the Right to Protest. Thousands of copies are distributed to protesting organisations around the country

22 Mar: Cde Bazooka Rhadebe, chairperson of the Amadiba Crisis Committee, brutally assassinated. R2K and 192 organisations mobilise solidarity across the country

31 Mar: Constitutional Court finds President Zuma failed to uphold the Constitution, orders him to pay back Nkandla money

21 Apr: R2K rejects Seriti Commission's Arms Deal report as a whitewash

24 Apr: R2K celebrates withdrawal of Cecil Burgess, champion of the secrecy Bill, as ANC's candidate for Inspector General of Intelligence

27 Apr - 3 May: R2K's annual Freedom Week sees 25 actions held across the country.

27 Apr: On Freedom Day, R2K pickets at the SSA's surveillance facility in Gauteng, and launches demands to end surveillance abuses

3 May: R2K releases annual Press Freedom Day statement and pickets in support of the Angolan 19 outside the Angolan Embassy in Pretoria and launch of the Channel Free initiative in Cape Town

4 May: R2K and others withdraw from



international Open Government Partnership (OGP) meeting demanding meaningful civil society participation in SA's OGP processes

7 May: R2K supports Sunday Times journalists at the court case of the official who tapped their phones

9 May: R2K pickets Labour Court in defence of media workers rights and in support of former Cape Times Editor fired by Sekunjalo's Iqbal Survè

14 May: Amid growing concerns of 'State Capture', R2K joins protest at the Gupta residence to highlight the link between corporate profit and pollution/climate change.

24 May: R2K marks Africa Day releasing a statement highlighting threat to media freedom on the continent

26 May: Minister of State Security accuses civil society organisations of being agents of foreign governments with a 'regime change' agenda

2 Jun: We mourn the loss of activist and musician, cde Mkhusele "Khusta" Sijora

20 Jun: R2K stands in solidarity with 94 Free State health workers who are charged for a peaceful protest about the crisis in the Health Department

20 Jun: R2K pickets against the SABC's decision not to broadcast news of violent protests. SABC journalists are suspended for protest the instruction not

to cover the R2K protests

1 Jul: R2K launches campaign for transparency and accountability in Local Government

7 Jul: R2K writes to SA's Minister of Foreign Affairs demanding action against Zimbabwe's repression of the #Zim-ShutDown2016 uprising

12 Jul: R2K welcomes ICASA decision ordering SABC to report on protests. Journalists are reinstated

23 Jul: R2K opposes threats made the Bapo Ba Mogale Traditional Council against staff of Brits community radio station Madibeng FM

3 Aug: The municipal elections show a decline in support for the ANC, which loses control of three more metros

6 Aug 2016: R2K debates ANC Legal Research Group on the Secrecy Bill

16 Aug: R2K commemorates Marikana Massacre with protests across the country

29 Aug: R2K celebrates contribution of Godfrey Phiri, R2K leader who passed away on the eve of R2K's 6th anniversary

21 Sept: R2K presents our case of #datamustfall to Parliament

25 Sept: R2K argues against amendments to the Film & Publication Bill in Parliament, which will increase internet censorship

27 Sept: Supreme Court rules in favour of R2K and others, finding that Parliament's censoring of the TV feed at State of the Nation 2015 was unlawful, as was the SSA's "signal-jamming"

28 Sept: On International Right to Know Day, R2K Mares on SABC Advertisers demanding they withdraw support for the broadcaster until the censorship stops

3 Oct: R2K condemns increased repression against #fessmustfall at the hands of the police and private security

16 Oct: R2K and Corruption Watch launch a legal challenge to the findings of the Arms Deal Commission

17 Oct: R2K joins the Hands Off Our Grants Campaign, demanding that government protects the personal information of people receiving grants

18 Oct: To commemorate Black Wednesday R2K releases an annual statement on the state of freedom of expression, holds a mass meeting in Cape Town and #datamustfall protest in Johannesburg

19 Oct: R2K Mares to the Human Rights Commission in Durban demanding they intervene to defend protesting students from repression

3 Nov: We mourn the loss of cde Jeannette Minnie, a veteran activist for media freedom

2 Nov: Former Public Protector Thuli Madonsela's state capture report exposes major dirty deals between the Gup-tas and senior government officials. The new Public Protector shows she will be less independent

3 Nov: We mourn the loss of cde Jeannette Minnie, a veteran activist for media freedom in Southern Africa

15 Nov: R2K condemns the continued attacks and death threats on SABC whistleblowers

15 Nov: It has been 3 years since the Secrecy Bill is passed and Zuma still hasn't signed it into law

18 Nov: R2K calls for the firing of State Security Minister David Mahlobo after he misled Parliament, accused civil society opponents of being spies, and denied a connection to rhino horn poaching

23 Nov: R2K protests at SAPS after continued police violence against student protests

29 Nov: Following R2K's victory for transparency in the appointment of the inspector general of intelligence, Parliament nominates Unisa's Dr Dintwe as the next spy watchdog

13 Dec: R2K testifies at Parliament's inquiry into the failing SABC board

14 Dec: R2K supports the court challenge against the secret Nuclear Deal

**R2K Provincial Summits:
What should R2K do in 2017?**

**Get involved
Set the 2017 Agenda...**

KZN 28 & 29 JAN '17 | **W/CAPE** 4 & 5 FEB '17 | **GAUTENG** 14 & 15 FEB '17
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LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD! KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!