



LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD! KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

NUCLEAR DEAL DEFEATED! (FOR NOW)

The Nuclear Deal court ruling is a victory against secrecy and corruption - but more is needed

The High Court's ruling on government's "secretive" Nuclear Deal process has been hailed as a massive victory for transparency. The ruling, thanks to faith group SAFCEI and EarthLife Africa Johannesburg (ELA), and the R2K sent the government back to the drawing board if they want to pursue nuclear energy in South Africa.

Siphokazi Pangalele, R2K Western Cape Coordinator, has been at the forefront of mobilising the youth against the Nuclear Deal. "We are so glad for the result, but it is clear that we still have a lot of work ahead of us. In the past few weeks citizens have demonstrated their willingness to mobilise against corruption and the capture of our State. The nuclear deal is at the centre of it all.

"This victory came after more than two years of hard work inside and outside the courts by civil society

organisations to inform and mobilise citizens, and protest against the government's secretive plan to sign a Nuclear Deal that could cost over R1 trillion.

The government made many promises for what the R1 trillion Nuclear Deal will mean to South Africans, but many of the experts tell a different story. Nuclear energy typically creates only a few very specialised jobs, renewable energy will create at least 100 000. Even the government's own research, done by the CSIR, shows that we don't need nuclear at all, and that renewable energy will be much cheaper. Throughout the discussions, public participation and transparency on the deal have been absent.

Vainola Makan, R2K Western Cape



R2K Western Cape comrades celebrating outside the Cape High Court

Organiser said, "We need our democratically elected government to be transparent in their dealings and accountable

to citizens for their choices."

Watch out for phone spies



R2K Gauteng comrades picketing outside Pretoria Specialised Commercial Crimes Court where a case on phone tapping of Sunday Times journalists was heard.

Ordinary citizens need to defend their right to privacy. That's the message from Karabo Rajuili, one of the activists leading R2K's campaign against state surveillance. Rajuili warns activists that government agents could be using your phone to track your movements or listen in on your calls or read messages with your knowledge. (This is called surveillance, or sometimes 'bugging'.)

Although the government is meant to only use these powers to fight

serious crime and terrorist threats, there are signs that the government is also using these powers against political leaders, journalists, community activists and people who are seen as 'troublemakers'.

Because of these abuses, R2K has ongoing meetings and campaigns to inform the public of their right to privacy, and how surveillance can be used to prevent people from participating in political action.

How RICA affects privacy

"RICA is the law that says that government agents can only intercept your communications if they have a judge's permission," Rajuili said at a recent briefing of activists in the Western Cape. But she warned that there is evidence that some government agents have methods of spying without a judge's permission, or can trick the judge into giving permission. (See "When state spying is abused")

RICA is meant to protect people's constitutional right to privacy. But it also violates that right.

"RICA forces people to register their SIM card using their identity documents, which makes it easier for government agents to spy on you," said Murray Hunter, another R2K campaigner.

Companies like MTN, Vodacom, Telkom and Cell C support the system of surveillance, by storing all records of who you call and text, and your location, for up to five years. If someone gets access to this information, they know some of the most secret details of your life. "Privacy is a basic human right and someone spying on your communication is robbing you of your privacy," said Hunter.

Challenging RICA

In April 2017, AmaBhungane Centre for Investigative Journalism went to court to challenge RICA, after state agents had spied on at least one of their journalists. Now the Right2Know Campaign has resolved to support their challenge, demanding an end to surveillance abuses.

"Surveillance doesn't leave broken bones or bullet holes," said Rajuili.

Iimfihlo ngomhlaba mazibhencwe!



Abahlali baseMjondolo marching for access to land and decent housing

Umzabalazo womhlaba yenye yeengxaki ezitshisa ibunzi ejongene nabantu baseMzantsi Afrika - yaye lo mzabalazo ubanjelwe umva zimfihlo malunga nobunini mhlaba, kunye nezicwangciso zikarhulumente ezingekho elubala.

UNompumelelo Njana weSouth African Waste Pickers Association uthi iSixeko saseKapa sisilele ukusabela kwisicelo sePAIA somhlaba eza kuwusebenzisela ukuhlaziya izinto esezisetyenzisiwe. Lo mbutho uzinze eKhayelitsha, nokwalilungule-R2K, ubusoloko ufuna iimpendulo kumasipala. "Soze kuphele ukungabi namhlaba logama nje abantu abangenamhlaba bevinjwa inkcazelo engemihlaba ebimele ibancede baziphuhlise" uphinde watsho umam" uNjana. Umzabalazo womhlaba, okhokelwa ngabangenamhlaba, umele ucel' umngeni kwisimbo sokugcina iimfihlo esixhaphakileyo kwiinkqubo zotshintsho kumhlaba, ingakumbi kumgangatho kamasipala.

Imimandla yokuhlala yethutyanasele iyeyesigxina esixekweni njengoko izicwangciso zokuthutha nokuhlaliswa kwabantu zigcinwa ziyimfihlo. Kukho eyenzekayo nethande ukwanda le yokuqeshiswa kwabantu ngasemva ezindlini yaye umasipala akathethi nto ngokulungiselela abantu izindlu. UQabane uMhlobo Gunguluzi, itsha-ntliziyo le-R2K ohlala eGugulethu, uyithetha phandle into yokuba iSixeko SaseKapa siyabaphoxa abantu abangathathi ntweni kumba wokunikezelwa komhlaba wokwakha izindlu.

Nkqu namaphulo aphezulu afana ne "Reclaim the City" (Cape Town) kuye kwanyanzeleka ukuba asebenzise isicelo sePAIA ukuchonga umhlaba ofumanekayo ukuze kwakhiwe izindlu zabo bangathathi ntweni kwiSixeko saseKapa, mhlaba lowo uthengiselwa abaphuhlisi abazimeleyo. Ngokutsho kwengxelo yeliphulo,

"umzabalazo wethu ungaku macandelo onke karhulumente kunye namasebe avumela umhlaba woluntu uthengiswe okanye ubeyincitha kwizinhlanha ezingawudingiyo".

Kungumba oxhalabisa kakhulu ukuba kwiminyaka engama-23 emva kokuzalwa kwedemokhrasi, kusathethwa ngokuba kusekho umsebenzi ongekafezekiswa wohlolo lobunini bemihlaba. De kube ngoku, uMzantsi Afrika awunayo umqulu wesizwe oqulethe olulwazi, yaye oomasipala bayalutyeshela uxanduva lokunikezela umhlaba kwabo bangathathi ntweni, nto leyo ephikisana necandelo 152 lomgaqo-siseko.

Umhlaba wokwakha izindlu ngowona mceli-mngeni ezidolophini njengoko abantu behlala kwiilokishi ezixineneyo nto leyo eyenza bangazifumani iinkonzo ezifanelekileyo. Endaweni yokunikezela ngomhlaba wokuhlala nokuvelisa, oomasipala bathe gqolo bekhupha abantu, bechitha izindlu zabo, bethimba imfuyo yabo, yaye bevakalisa ukuhlala kwabantu njengokungekho mthethweni.

Enye yeenkalo ezibalulekileyo zomzabalazo womhlaba kukulwela ukuba inyaniso engobunini bomhlaba yaziswe kumntu wonke. Kungeso sizathu iphulo leRight2Know liye lagxininisa ekunikeleni ingqalelo ekugayeni inkxaso yokuba inkcazelo engobunini bomhlaba yaziwe ngumntu wonke.

Simele ukuphawula ukuba urhulumente kuya kufuneka afakwe uxinzelelo lokuba asebenze elubala ngokubambisana neendawo ezichaphazekayo xa enikezela ngomhlaba kubantu. Umzabalazo womhlaba awusayi kuhambela phambili ukuba asiphumi phandle sichaze iimfihlo. Abaswele umhlaba kufuneka babe nolwazi lokuba ngoobani abangabanini bemihlaba ebangqongileyo kwilizwe labo lokuzalwa.

Watch out for phone spies

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"But it can still do a lot of damage to an individual or an organisation. So we must fight it!"

Siviwe Mdoda, an R2K activist, said that individuals should learn to communicate securely and know their rights and the risks. But activists should remain courageous in the face of surveillance.

"We must know that our communications are not private, and continue to do our political work without fear. Those who want to intimidate us, must go hang!"

R2K has lodged several complaints with the watchdog, Inspector General of Intelligence, over government spying on activists.

When state spying is abused:

- In 2012, Sunday Times journalists bugged by the police.
- In 2015, AmaBhungane journalist bugged when investigating Zuma's corruption charges.
- In 2015, Mpumalanga journalist Tom Nkosi learned State Security tracking his movements.
- Cape Town police officer called Paul Scheepers is charged with spying on lawyers and senior police officers.

To learn more visit :

www.r2k.org.za/rica-guide

R2K versterk openbare deelname in die Weskus

Tydens Vryheidsweek het die Abbotsdale-gemeenskap, wat deur die Right2Know in die Wes-Kaap ondersteun word, aan 'n mars na die plaaslike munisipaliteit van Malmesbury en na die N7-kontraakteurs deelgeneem. Beide die munisipaliteit en die kontraakteurs ignoreer die stemme van die gemeenskap in hulle projekte en besluite.

Vroue, die jeug, gemeenskapsleiers sowel as inwoners van omliggende gemeenskappe het die mars ondersteun. "Die gemeenskap het onder andere versoek dat die munisipaliteit en die kontraakteurs werklose plaaslike gemeenskappe van werk moet voorsien wanneer groot projekte ingebring word", het mnr. Herzil Sedeman, voorsitter van die Abbotsdale-gemeenskapsforum, gesê.

R2K se verhouding met die Weskus-gemeenskapsforum het 2 jaar gelede begin nadat R2K 'n Right to Protest-werkswinkel saam met die Chatsworth-gemeenskap aangebied het. "Hulle het ons aan die einde van verlede jaar genooi om hul kwartaalvergadering van die Weskus-gemeenskapsforum by te woon, wat die oorkoepelende liggaam vir die Weskus-ontwikkeling en Gemeenskapsorganisasies is, en ons het die leiers van die Abbotsdale-gemeenskapsforum daar ontmoet", het Vainola Makaan, organiseerder van R2K in die Wes-Kaap, gesê.

"R2K het die gemeenskap gehelp om hul eise in verband met die mars te verfyne met betrekking tot die gebrek aan aanspreeklikheid in groot ontwikkelings soos padinfrastruktuur, sowel as belangrike besluite", het Makaan bygevoeg. Volgens mnr. Sedeman het die gemeenskap by 'n vorige mars 'n memorandum oorgehandig wat inligting versoek het, en hulle is twee jaar lank deur die Munisipaliteit geïgnoreer. Hy het gesê dat die gemeenskap ná die mars nuwe vertroue gekry het en beplan nou 'n 'meningsuiting-geleentheid' en 'n vergadering met die wyksraadslid om gereelde kommunikasie met die plaaslike regering te verbeter, asook om hul klagtes en ontwikkelingsidees te deel.

R2K het ook 'n verteenwoordiger van die Abbotsdale-gemeenskapsforum genooi om 'n vergadering van verteenwoordigers vanaf verskeie Swartland-munisipaliteite by te woon wat deur Surplus People's Project aangebied is om die toestand van kleinskaalse boere sowel as die land wat in die Weskus onteien is, te bespreek.

R2K in die Weskus het versoek dat opvolgwerk gedoen word, insluitende 'n werkswinkel met vroue oor betekenisvolle skakeling, 'n Right to Protest-werkswinkel en volhoue betekenisvolle skakeling met die plaaslike regering.

Owakwa Dukuza ufu- na ulwazi ngomhlaba!

Sekuphele iminyaka uMnu Napoleon Dimba elwela ukuthi alekelelwe umasipala wakhe ukuze abuyiselwe ipulazi lomndeni wakhe elathathwa uhulumeni ngeminyaka yezi-1960. Emva kokuthi umasipala umntuntise iminyaka eminingi, umasipala waKwaDukuza (eNyakatho neTheku) usunengcindezi yokuthi uthathe izinyathelo.

“Sengizame ukuxhumana nezisebenzi zikamasipala ngepulazi amahlandla amaningi kodwa ngitshelwa ukuthi lolu daba aluhlangene nomasipala kodwa oloMnyango Wezemihlaba,” kusho uMnu Dimba.

Lokhu kushintshile ngenkathi uMnu Dimba ehlangana nabakwa R2K e-KZN.

Ngeminyaka yezi-1960 leli pulazi lalisetshenziselwa ukutshala umoba nombila. Manje ngokwasehoovisi lamatayitela, lomhlaba owoMnyango Wezemihlaba ngaphandle kokulandelwa kwemigudu yokuthengwa komhlaba. Ingxenye yalo mhlaba isinemizi yemixhaso eyakhiwe khona.

NgoMbaso, ngokucela kukaMnu Dimba, umhloli we-R2K e-KZN uNgazini Ngidi wabhalela iMeya u-Ricardo Mthembu incwadi ehlela umhlangano phakathi kwezinhlangothi zombili.

“Kuthe uma udaba luvela emaphephandabeni esiZulu, abakwa-R2K bathola ucingo luvela kuMeya ecela ukuthi bahlangane kudingidwe lolu daba nabakwa-R2K noMnu Dimba,” kusho uNgidi.

KuMbaso, emhlanganweni --ne-Komidi EliPhezulu LikaMasipala, iMeya yavuma ukuthi ivakashele indawo iyozibonela. Yachaza nokuthi lolu daba yalufica ehoovisi ngenkathi iqala isikhathi sokusebenza kwayo ngakho izodinga ukuthola ulwazi ngalo. IMeya yethembise ukubuya nombiko kwabakwa-R2K emva kwamasono amathathu kodwa ayikaze iphinde ibuye.

“Sikholelwa ukuthi uMasipala udlala ngathi njengoba wawenza nakuMnu Dimba,” kusho uNgidi.

Abakwa-R2K bathe uma becela amaminithi omhlangano kodwa batshelwa ukuthi akuzange kuthathwe maminithi kulowo mhlango. “Lokhu sikubona kumangaza ukuthi kungahlala iKomidi leMeya kodwa kungathathwa maminithi,” kusho uNgidi.

Abakwa-R2K basazohlela isinyathelo esilandelayo njengoba iMeya ingazigcinanga izethembiso zayo.

Stop land secrecy!

The struggle for land starts with transparency. We need a land audit.



Spatial Planning in Cape Town shows great inequality (Pic: www.waronwant.org)

The struggle for land is one of the most burning issues facing the people of South Africa - and that struggle is being held back by secrecy around land ownership, and non transparent government planning. Nompumelelo

Njana of South African Waste Pickers Association says that the City of Cape Town is failing to respond to the PAIA application about the land for their recycling activities. This Khayelitsha-based organisation, also a member of R2K, has been seeking answers from the municipality. “Landlessness will remain permanent as long as the landless are deprived information about the land that should aid their development,” said Njana. The land struggle, led by the landless, must challenge the culture of secrecy that characterises the processes of land reform, especially at local level.

Temporary residential areas have become permanent in the city as plans for relocation and settlement remain secret. There is an ever-increasing reality of backyard dwelling and the municipality provides no

answers about provision of housing. Comrade Mhlobo Gunguluzi, an R2K activist based in Gugulethu, strongly asserts that the City of Cape Town is failing the poor when it comes to provision of land for housing.

Even highly organised campaigns like Reclaim the City (Cape Town) had to use PAIA to identify land that is available for housing for poor residents of Cape Town, but which is being sold off to private developers. According to a campaign statement, “Our struggle is against all spheres of government and departments who allow our prime public land and housing to lie empty, be sold off or go to waste on wealthy elites”.

One of the important avenues for the land struggle is to fight for the truth about landholding to be made public. It is in that context that Right2Know campaign resolved to focus its energies on campaigning for information about land holding to be made public.

In 2011 government committed to doing a land audit, which to date is still ongoing. It is matter of great

concern that 23 years after the dawn of democracy there is still talk of an outstanding task of conducting a land audit. Land for housing is a major challenge for urban areas as people live back to back in congested townships that allow no adequate provision of services. Instead of providing land for settlement and production, municipalities have been evicting people, tearing down their shelters, impounding the livestock and criminalising occupations.

Right2Know Campaign has called on government to complete the audit immediately and release it publicly!

Government will need to be pressured to act in consultation with affected communities and with absolute transparency in dealing with providing land to the historically marginalised. The land struggle will not advance if we leave land secrets unchallenged. The scale of land monopoly must be made public and the landless need to be informed about who owns the land of their birth.

Land claim: KZN mayor must act

Municipality faces pressure over family farm

For years Mr Napoleon Dimba has been working to get his municipality to help him get back his family farm, which was seized by the government in the 1960s. After giving Mr Dimba the run-around for years, the Kwa-Dukuza Municipality (north of Durban) is now under pressure to act.

“I’ve tried to engage the Municipality officials about the family farm on many occasions but they told me the issue was nothing to do with the Municipality, but the Department of Land Affairs,” said Mr Dimba.

That changed when Mr Dimba joined forces with the R2K.

In the 1960s, the 16 hectare farm was used to grow sugarcane and miel

ies. Now, according to the KZN deeds office, the land is currently owned by KZN Land Affairs, without any legal transfer neither purchase processes followed. One part of the land has RDP houses built on it.

In April, at Mr Dimba’s request, R2K KZN leader Ngazini Ngidi wrote a letter Mayor Ricardo Mthembu to arrange a meeting between the parties.

“Once the issue appeared in Zulu newspapers, R2K received a call from the Mayor to say he was keen to meet R2K and Dimba,” said Ngidi.

In April, at a meeting between the Mayor and Municipal Executive Committee, the mayor agreed that he will go to the area for a site visit. He

explained that he inherited the issue when he came for his term of office so needed to get more information. The Mayor promised to report back to R2K after three weeks but never showed up.

“We believe that the Municipality is trying to play hide and seek with us as it did with Mr Dimba,” said Ngidi.

R2K have further asked for minutes of the meeting but were told no minutes were taken. “We find this very strange that the Mayor’s committee would sit without minutes taken,” said Ngidi.

R2K still has to decide on the way forward as the Mayor has not kept his promises.

YES - you can film the police!

R2K has demanded that police stop interfering with citizens' right to film and photograph them. Police officers have frequently been reported for intimidating and even attacking people who record police activities, violating Constitutional rights to freedom of expression.

Both journalists and ordinary citizens are affected. In April, journalist Katherine Child was manhandled by a police officer at an event at the Gupta residence that President Jacob Zuma was attending. After Child took photos, the police officer seized her cellphone and demanded that she leave the event after wiping the data off the device.

Ordinary citizens have also been targeted. R2K Gauteng member Julie Reid reports that the police tried to arrest her for photographing them

at an anti-censorship protest at the Film & Publications Board. "They got very angry when they saw me taking pics of them and came up and

started dragging me to their van," said Reid. "I screamed at them that I know my rights until they let go of me."

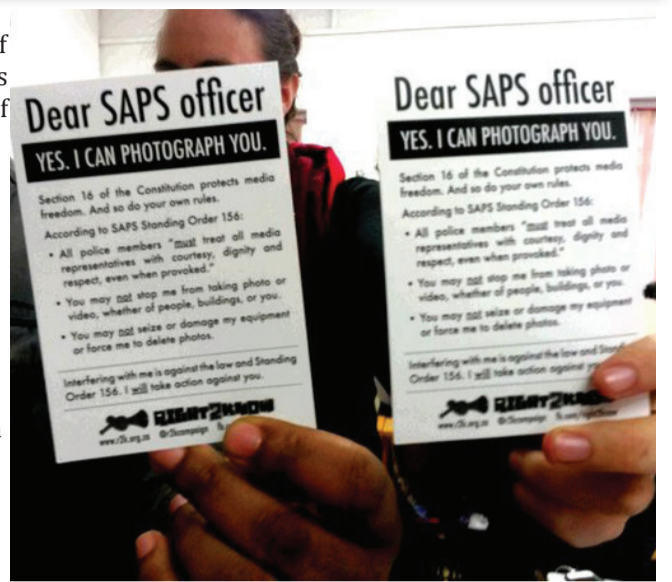
Not everyone is so lucky. R2K Western Cape member Levona Carstens witnessed a police officer attack a woman who was filming him during a brutal arrest. "(The police officer) was choking a boy who was being arrested for drug dealing. My neighbour was filming it and then the police man saw and came running to us," said Carstens. Carstens says the policeman swore at the woman, grabbed her phone and deleted the footage.

"The right to record the police is important, because it lets the cops know that they are being watched," says Biko Mutsaurwa, a R2K activist. Any police officer who interferes with someone who is recording them could face misconduct charges. Mutsaurwa advises that you should get as much evidence as possible of any

incident, including the name and rank of the officer, the names and contact details of witnesses, and open up a charge with the police.

Police officers must also obey SAPS Standing Order 156, which tells police that they may never stop a "media representative" from taking pictures or video.

The biggest problem with Standing Order 156, says Mutsaurwa, is that it wrongly suggests that only professional journalists have the right to film the police and does not make it clear that police must also respect the rights of ordinary citizens.



Download R2K advisory on taking photographs of the police at www.r2k.org.za/filmthepolice

Mutsaurwa says, "The leadership of SAPS needs to get its own members under control. There must be a clear order from the top that every police officer must respect the community's right to record."

E – Baahi ba na le tokelo ya ho nka difoto tsa mapolesa!

Mokgatlo wa R2K o lwantsha ka matla taba ya hore mapolesa a tlohele ho sitisa tokelo ya baahi ya ho ba nka di filimi le dinepe. Ho nile ha tlalehwa ka makgetlo hore Ditho tsa Tshebeletso ya Sepolesa ya Afrika Borwa di etsa ditshoso, ho hlalisa le ho hlasela batho ba rekotang diketso tsa mapolesa, e leng tse kgahlanong le ditokelo tsa Molao wa Motheo tsa bolokolohi ba puo.

Ho ameha baqolotsi ba ditaba le baahi kabo bona.

Maqalong a selemo sena, Molaodi wa Mapolesa a SAPS wa Eldorado Park o ile a nkwa senepe ha a ne a leka ho emisa moqolotsi wa ditaba ka ho nka divideo nakong ya boipe-laetso tsa mokgopi wa toka. Ka April, moqolotsi wa ditaba Katherine Child o ile a tloswa ka dikgoka ke ofisiri ya mapolesa lelapeng la ba Gupta moo ho neng ho tlele Mopresidente Jacob Zuma. Ofisiri ya mapolesa e ile ya mo nkela founo mme ya phumula boitse-biso bohle, ka mora moo a tsitlella ho mo tsebela sebakeng seo.

Baahi ba motse le bona ba ne ba hlaselwa. Setho sa mokgatlo wa R2K wa Gauteng Julie Reid o tlaleha hore mapolesa a ile a leka ho mo tshwara nakong eo a neng a ba nka dinepe boipelaetsong ba ho ba kgahlanong le dithibella bo neng bo le Film & Publications Board. Reid o re, "Ba ile ba halefa haholo ha ba mpona ke ba nka

dinepe, yaba batla ho nna ba nkgulela koloing ya bona, ke ile ka ba tjwediet-sa ho fihlela ba ntlohela ke ba bolella hore ke tseba ditokelo tsaka."

Hase motho e mong le e mong ya lehlohonolo jwalo. Setho sa mokgatlo wa R2K wa Kapa Bophirimela Levona Garstens o ile a bona ofisiri ya mapolesa a hlasela mosadi ya neng a mo nka filimi nakong eo ho neng ho tshwarwa motho ka sehloho. Carstens o re, "(Ofisiri ya Mapolesa) o ile a kगतlapetsa moshanyana ya neng a tshwaretswe ho hweba ka dithe-thefatsi. Ha mohaisani waka a ntse a a nka filimi, lepolesa le ile la bona seo mme la tla le matha ho rona," Carstens o re lepolesa leo le ile la rohaka mosadi eo, la tjhwabola founo ya hae mme la hlakola fillimi eo.

Sebuelli sa R2K Biko Mutsaurwa o re, "tokelo ya ho rekota mapolesa ke ya bohlokwa hobane e etsa hore ba hlokomele hore ba behilwe leihlo." Ofisiri leha e le ofe wa mapolesa ya ka sitisang motho ya mo nkang video a ka qosetswa boitshwaro bo bobo – Mutsaurwa o eletsa hore motho o lokela ho nka bopaki bo bongata kamoo ho ka kgonehang ketsahalong leha e le efe, bo akarelletsang lebitso le boemo ba lepolesa, mabitso le boitsebiso ba dipaki mme ba bule nyewe.

Diofisiri tsa mapolesa di tlameha ho mamela Molao Taelo o Hlomamisitsweng wa 156 wa SAPS, o bolellang



Police fire rubber bullets at protesters in Bekkersdal, Westonaria.

mapolesa hore ha a lokela ho thibela "moemedi wa metjha ya phatlalats" ho nka dinepe kapa video.

Mutsaurwa o re qaka e kgolo ya Molao Taelo o Hlomamisitsweng wa 156 ke hore o etsa hore batho ba nahane hore ke baqolotsi ba ditaba ba kwetlisitsweng feela ba nang le tokelo ya ho nka mapolesa-difilimi mme ha e hlakise hore mapolesa le ona a tlameha ho hlompha ditokelo tsa baahi.

Mutsaurwa o re, "Baetapele ba SAPS ba lokela ho laola ditho tsa bona. Ba lokela ho fana ka taelo e tobileng ho tswa ho ba boholong hore mapolesa a tlameha ho hlompha ditokelo tsa setjhaba tsa ho reko-ta boitsebiso. Ofisiri leha e le efe e thunthetsang tokelo ena o tlameha ho qoswa."

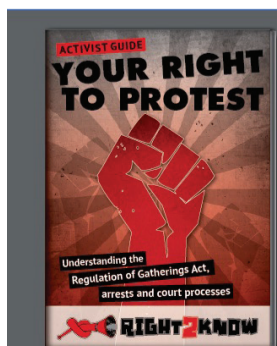
Kena ho r2k.org.za/filmthepolice bakeng sa boitsebiso bo eketsehileng

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For free legal advice or to get help finding a lawyer.



DEFEND YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST!

New activist guide on the Gatherings Act, police brutality, arrests and court processes

www.r2k.org.za/protestguide



LOCAL GOVERNMENT MUST SERVE THE PEOPLE!

R2K'S new Activist Guide unpacks transparency and accountability in local government, and the right to recall failing leaders

www.r2k.org.za/localgovt

Mining company accused of dividing community



Mapela community imbizo

Tempers have flared, and three people now face criminal charges, in the Mapela community in Mokopane, Limpopo, where residents accuse Anglo American Platinum of dividing the community.

Some local residents told R2K that there is a climate of intimidation against those who oppose mining operations in the area. Residents, who requested anonymity for safety reasons, say they are unhappy with the local structure set up to engage between the mine and the community, called the Task Team (TT).

Three residents face criminal charges after community members did damage to the home of one TT member, although the accused denies any involvement in the damage.

However, they say that frustration with the TT is real. Residents have complained that the TT, which was originally made up of five elected members from each village, was

reduced to only two members per village, in a process that was non transparent.

"The smaller TT, called the Twos, received payment from Anglo American Platinum, causing deeper divisions in the community," said one resident.

"The community decided that they should have fresh elections and a whole new process to ensure that the TT remains only accountable to the community," added one anonymous community member.

According to the activist, "the community of Mapela demanded to meet with the TT representative for reports but they were ignored, which led to protests against TT representatives." After residents returned several times to a TT member's home to find nobody there, tempers flared, and the property sustained damage.

A week later, three people were arrested and face a court hearing in

June. The accused say they had no involvement in the damage.

"This community is currently in the line of fire and has been earmarked for relocation to make way for the mine. They suffer constant explosive blasts by the mine which has now crept up to within 100 meters of their houses," said one resident.

Anglo American Platinum defended itself, saying the TT is facilitated by the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), and reducing membership to two members per village was necessary to streamline engagements. "The purpose of these engagement structures is to ensure open and transparent communication between us and our key stakeholders and we are deeply committed to foster meaningful relationships with our stakeholders," said the mining company spokesperson.

Media freedom must go to grassroots



R2K activists picketing outside SABC Studios in Cape Town

Without a free and diverse media, there can be no transparency, no accountability, no freedom of expression, and therefore no true democracy.

23 years into democracy, we note with sadness that, instead of opening up the airwaves and promoting the free flow of information that enables us to hold our government and each other accountable, the state, capital and other powerful interests continue to chip away at the freedom and independence of our newspapers, our magazines, our radio and television stations, and to promote a press that is uncontroversial, and subservient.

Media is a public good – a constitutional right that is the key to the realisation and defence of other rights.

If media consumption and production opportunities remain in the grip of monopolies, they will continue to be enjoyed disproportionately by the economically powerful. In a country with such high levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality, appropriate interventions may be necessary to counter market forces that contribute to this phenomenon. We should not have to choose between media that are beholden to political interests and media that are beholden to corporate interests.

R2K calls on South Africans to be vigilant and defend media freedom while demanding media transformation to create an independent media landscape that can serve the communication needs of everyone in South Africa. We need more media, not less; more voices, not fewer.

A legal framework for repression

The legal protections of the Constitution risk being undermined by a range of new legislation and the revival of Apartheid laws aimed at suppressing freedom of expression. Some examples include the unsigned Secrecy Bill that will criminalise reporting on corruption, the Film & Publication Board Amendment Bill that extends the State's moral policing to the Internet, and the draft Prevention & Combating of Hate Crimes & Hate Speech Bill that would criminalise "bringing contempt and ridicule" onto politicians or corporate executives.

R2K rejects any legislation intended to undermine investigative reporting, suppress freedom of expression and protect the powerful from critics.

Khamphani ya mmaene e pharwa ka molato wa go aroganya setšhaba

Ba bangwe ba ile ba tšee ga maikwelo, gomme ga bjale batho ba bararo ba pharwa ka molato wa bosenyi tikologong ya Mapela kua Mokopane, Limpopo, moo badudi ba pharago mmaene wa Anglo American Platinum ka molato wa go aroganya setšhaba.

Badudi ba bangwe ba motse ba boditše R2K gore bao ba lwantšhana go le tšhepedišo ya mmaene wa motseng woo ba a tšhošetšwa. Badudi, bao ba sa nyakego gore maina a bone a utollwe ka mabaka a tšhireletšego, ba re ga ba thabišwe ke tsela yeo mmaene o dirišanago le batho ba tikologong go dirišwa sehlopha seo se bitšwago Task Team (TT).

Badudi ba bararo ba tikologo yeo ba pharilwe ka melato ya bosenyi ka morago ga gore badudi ba tikologong ba senye ntlo ya setho sa TT, gaešita le ge batho bao ba pharwago molato ba gana gore ba tšentshe letsogo tshenyong yeo.

Lega go le bjalo, ba dumela gore go na le dikgohlano tše dikgolo ka gare ga mokgatlo wa TT. Badudi ba belaetše ka gore TT, yeo mathomong e bego e bopša ke ditho tše hlano tšeo di kgethilwego go tšwa motsaneng o

mongwe le o mongwe, e ile ya fokolatšwa go ditho tše pedi motsaneng o mongwe le o mongwe, gomme mogato woo o dirilwe ka tsela ya go belaetša.

Modudi o mongwe o boletše gore: "Sehlopha se senyenyane sa TT, seo se bitšwago "the Twos," se hwetša tšhelete e itšego go tšwa go Anglo American Platinum, e lego seo se bakago mathata a magolo tikologong yeo."

Setho se sengwe sa motseng woo, seo se sa nyakego go utolla leina la sona, se okeditše ka gore: "Batho ba tikologong yeo ba phethile ka gore go be le dikgetho tše difsa le mogato o mofsa go tiišetša gore TT e sa tšwela pele e ikarabelela go batho ba tikologong yeo." -

Go ya ka molwelatokologo yo mongwe, "motse wa Mapela o ile wa kgopela gore o kopane le baemedi ba TT gore ba ba fe dipego eupša kgopelo yeo e ile ya hlokomologwa, e lego seo se ilego sa feleletša ka gore go be le mogwanto kgahlanong le baemedi ba TT." Ka morago ga gore badudi ba ye malapeng a ditho tša TT leboelela gomme ba sa hwetše motho, ba ile ba thoma go galefa gomme meago ya thoma go senywa.

Beke ka morago, batho ba bararo ba ile ba golegwa gomme ba tla tšwelela pele ga kgoro ka June. Bala tofatšwa ba bolela gore ga ba tsebe selo ka go senywa ga meago.

Modudi yo mongwe o bolela gore: "Ga bjale setšhaba se kotsing ya gore se ka swa gomme se swanetše go huduga e le go bulela mmaene sebaka, ga bjale se tlaišwa ke methuthupo ya mmaene yeo ga bjale e parasitšego dintlo tša bona go fihlela go dimithara tše 100."

Ge Anglo American Platinum e ikemela e boletše gore TT e hlamilwe ke Komišini ya Ditokelo tša Batho ya Afrika Borwa (SAHRC), gomme go fokoletša ditho tša yona go batho ba babedi go tšwa motseng o mongwe le o mongwe go be go le bohlokwa go kgonthišetša gore go šomiwa gabotse. Mmoleledi wa khamphani ya mmaene o re: "Morero wa go hlama megato ye ke go tiišetša gore go ba le dipolelišano tša go hloka sephiri magareng ga rena le bathekgi ba rena gomme re tloga re ikemišeditše gore go be le ditšwalano tše dibotse magareng ga rena le bathekgi ba rena."

Dismissed UWC workers fight on!



UWC workers demonstrating outside UWC East gate entrance. Story and Image by: Songezo Mazizi

Hundreds of supporters have signed a petition calling for the reinstatement of 143 outsourced workers at UWC who were dismissed by security contractor Securitas. The workers, who were supporting protests at UWC for free decolonised

education and insourcing, were dismissed in January in a process that critics have called “biased and illegal”. The Labour Court had overturned an initial attempt to dismiss protesting workers for “absconding from work”, after the workers’ legal team suc-

cessfully argued that absent workers did not “abscond” but stayed away because of protest-related campus shutdowns.

But after the court ruling, Securitas embarked on a “biased and illegal hearing”, wherein new charges

were brought of “hostage-taking.” 143 workers were found guilty and dismissed.

“Most of these workers are bread winners to their poor families. They have children to feed, buy school uniform and stationery” said Ntoko Mfaha, one of those who were dismissed.

“Their dismissal means our parents would inevitably see their children being expelled from schools due to inability to pay school fees” said Ncumisa Mdlololo, Fees Must Fall activist. Fees Must Fall Western Cape movement and extends its all hearted support to these workers, she added, demanding immediate reinstatement of all dismissed workers. Dismissed worker Amanda Soya said that she had worked at the university for years. she has been without a job since October. “We didn’t enjoy Christmas. We were just looking at other people having fun,” she said.

Nearly 400 people have signed a petition for their reinstatement..

We demand the release of apartheid-era secrets!

R2K has welcomed the release of *Apartheid Guns and Money*, an important book about the networks of corruption and profit of our apartheid past. Authored by R2K member Hennie Van Vuuren, this book teaches lessons about our past, and our present and future

At a recent R2K meeting discussing *Apartheid Guns and Money*, Siphiwe Tofile from Marikana in Philippi said: “This book exposes a lot, it shows that the current government is the same as the previous government in terms of corruption”.

The need to release apartheid documents

Two decades into democracy, we have yet to see the full release of apartheid era secrets – millions of documents from the apartheid regime are held by departments across government and have yet to be released to the public. The resolutions of R2K’s National Summits in 2016 and 2017 have both made the call for the release of all apartheid secret records.

Several government bodies have forced the researchers to go to court for access to apartheid-era records.

Deepening the fight against corruption

The book is a vital reminder that today’s crisis of corruption and state capture is rooted in history. The international banks, middlemen and lobbyists who facilitated corrupt deals and sanctions-busting under apartheid have stayed in business, and many have had roles in corrupting our democratic politics today. Several of the companies and individuals implicated in the post-94 Arms Deal were secret trading partners of the apartheid military regime. This includes Thomson-CSF, which became Thales, the French arms com-

pany alleged to have bribed President Jacob Zuma.

We must demand that those who profited from apartheid’s deals answer for their actions, just as we must ensure that those currently implicated in state capture in the Zuma era are brought to justice.

Secrecy breeds corruption

By lifting a veil of secrecy on the corruption of the past, *Apartheid Guns and Money* shows how corruption and secrecy go hand in glove.

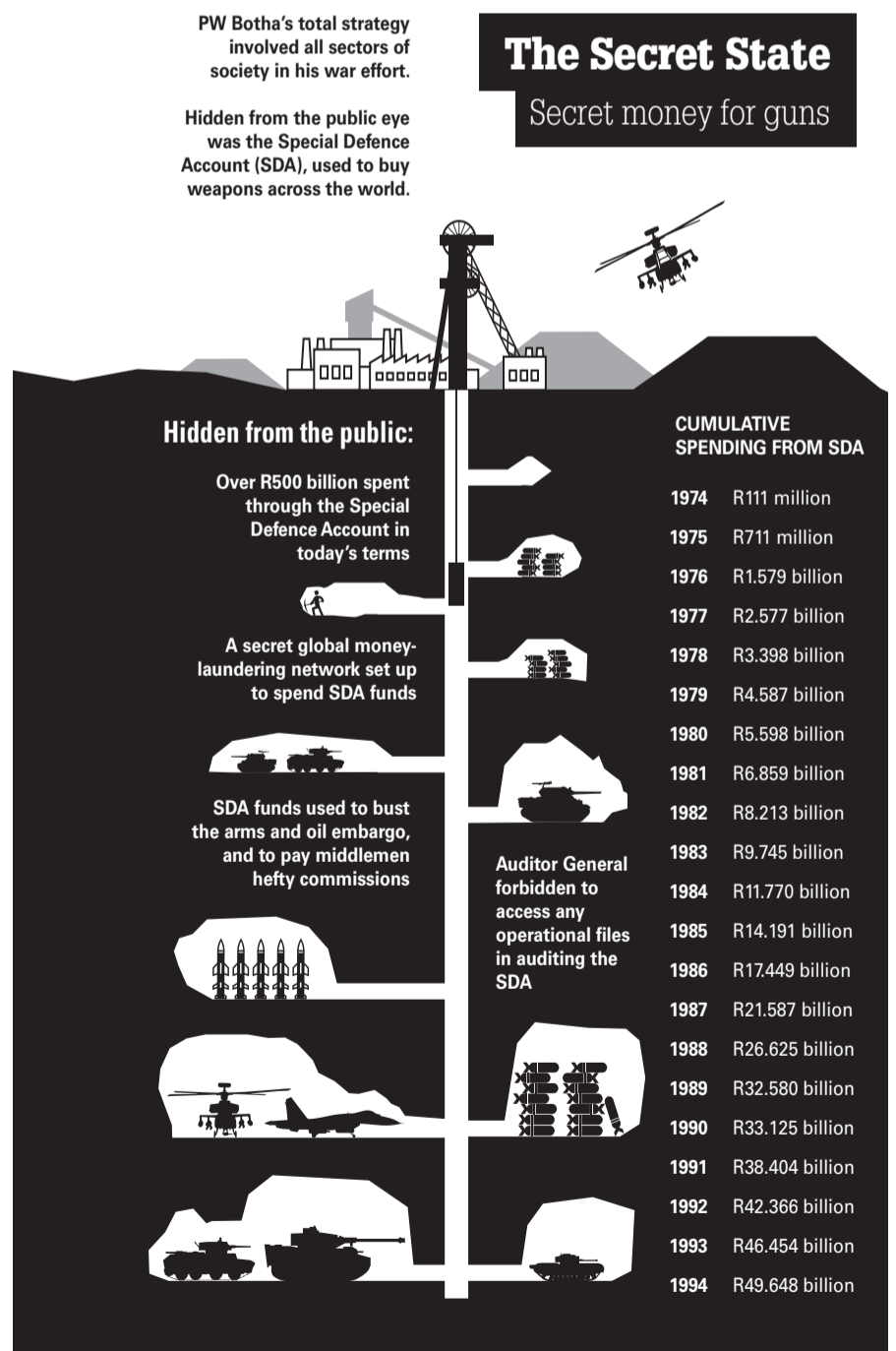
This bitter lesson learned by ordinary South Africans in the post-94 era, whether through the secrecy of the corrupt Arms Deal and countless other scandals. This is why the people of South Africa must be vigilant against any attempt to close down public debate and transparency in our society, including through the pending Secrecy Bill. We must continue to fight any attempt to sign a secret Nuclear Deal, which will only benefit foreign companies in countries like Russia, France, China and the US.

Way forward

The democratic government failed the nation by letting apartheid corruptors go free, and in many cases following in their footsteps. The current crisis of secrecy, corruption and state capture embodied by Zuma and his cabal, are the results of this failure.

- We demand the full release of the millions of apartheid documents buried in government archives – no more secrets!
- We demand investigation and prosecution on apartheid-era and present-day corruption!

R2K salutes the research team of Open Secrets South Africa for their commitment in unearthing the truth.



Infographic from *Apartheid Guns and Money*. Get your copy at all bookstore or visit www.opensecrets.org.za for more.

Opinion: State capture goes to the roots of post-94 SA

'State capture' is a crisis, but not a new one, and not the work of one person or a small group of bad people, writes Dale McKinley

From the beginning of the democratic transition, the ANC has seen power as residing in existent institutional forms of power (the state), existent forms of political representation and participation (the party/elections) and with those who have existent ownership of capital (the capitalist class).

In quick turn, the ANC became the key political vehicle, both in party and state form, of corporate capital. As a result, the party becomes the ultimate political vanguard for the various capitalist class interests that run it, and for capital itself; the state acts as the main vehicle for "implementation", and an elite-centric "Black Economic Empowerment" (BEE) is the main driver.

Corruption sits at the centre of this relationship, because corruption is a key ingredient in capital's insatiable drive for profit and for new ways to exploit human and natural resources. This requires the ideological and financial capture of dominant political parties, and thus also the purpose and policy direction of the state. This is most often realised through the individual and class corruption of leading party politicians and state officials. Starting with the Arms Deal, this is exactly what has happened in post-1994 South Africa.

Within the ANC, power has become increasingly concentrated around corrupted leadership and associated structures. This starts with the President and the NEC and then filters to provincial, district and

branch levels. In this set-up, ANC leaders like President Jacob Zuma only need the support of those who are in different levels of leadership, as well as from the main "stakeholders" – not of the party membership as a whole, or the broader public. This has ensured that power is not about the people but rather about patronage "property" of the leadership in key party structures. It doesn't matter which leaders sit at the top – in a patronage system, the leaders can ignore, buy off, intimidate or marginalise dissenting party members, except during election time.

This has been happening, at varying degrees of intensity, since 1994, whether during the Mandela, Mbeki or Zuma years. Those who opposed this trend or asked critical have been called naïve, or stooges, or are labelled as the political enemies of the ANC or of the "revolution" itself.

The continuity of corporate capture, of corruption, of the arrogance of state and executive power, of the demobilisation of the grassroots, is crucial to understanding what Zuma has done and will continue to do.

Many former and current ANC, SACP and Cosatu leaders, officials and state bureaucrats who are now finding their (selective) dissenting voices have conveniently forgotten this – as if all of these problems only started when Zuma took over.

The reality is that most of those who have occupied positions of power within the ANC, its alliance partners and the state since 1994



FW de Klerk and Nelson Mandela shake hands at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum held in Davos in January 1992

have changed themselves. Their political and personal choices created a huge material and class gap between them and the mass they politically represented. In turn, this created a wide range of opportunities for mutually reinforcing benefit among the new and old elite, opening further the doors to individual and organisational corruption.

Each new ANC "administration" deepened and widened a politics of accession and incorporation (joining the club of rich and powerful people). The truth is that real "radical economic transformation" is an elite-captured, individualist and self-beneficial process. Here, there is far more commonality than differ-

ence between Zuma's crew and those that were in charge previously.

What the ANC and its alliance partners have truly forgotten is that how one lives (and leads) is much more important than where one lives, and how much power and money one has.

Unless that life lesson is (re) learnt, South Africa will continue to make the same mistake again and again.

"This is an edited extract from Dale McKinley's new book, 'South Africa's Corporatised Liberation: A critical analysis of the ANC in Power'.

VOTE! MPs must do the right thing

This open letter to members of Parliament was signed by 33 organisations, including R2K

As an elected representative of the people you will soon be required to cast a vote in the Motion of No Confidence tabled against President Zuma. We, the undersigned call on you to:

Vote to ensure that the President and the executive answer to you as our public representatives. Vote to give substance to Section 55(2) of the Constitution and your role to hold the executive to account.

Vote to allow South Africa to focus on service delivery. Vote to reject the relentless political distractions that divert your focus on your role to represent the people and ensure government by us under the Constitution.

Vote to address state capture. Vote to stop the greed of the few that worsens the needs of the many.

Vote to ensure that presidential political appointees are fit and proper and embody a commitment to public service.

Vote to ensure that those that assume public office are there to serve everyone and not the narrow interests of a politically connected few.

Vote for a new direction free of

national political decisions taken simply to address the legal challenges faced by some. Vote for an independent National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) that can fulfill its mission to prosecute without fear, favour and prejudice.

Vote to ensure that the Minister of Social Development is held accountable for putting the social grants of millions of people at risk. Vote for responsive and capable leadership to safeguard the wellbeing of the most vulnerable amongst us. Vote for leadership that respects women. Vote for political change to realise women's equality, dignity. Vote for women's political voice.

Vote to ensure that the Minister of State Security no longer can enlist secrecy and non-existent intelligence reports to chart the trajectory of a government that should be open and transparent. Vote for truth.

Vote to ensure that Minister of Public Enterprises is answerable to you on the reinstatement of Brian Molefe as the Chief Executive Officer at Eskom. Vote for visionary leader-



President Jacob Zuma shares a joke in Parliament. PIC: Esa Alexander

ship to ensure that our State Owned Enterprises prosper for all. Vote to ensure South Africa pursues

affordable renewable energy and not an unaffordable nuclear program. Vote for what has the interests of our children and our children's children at heart. Vote to address the historical inequalities and rights violations of rural farmworkers and dwellers. Vote for rural justice.

Vote for fearless leadership in Vuwani and Bloemfontein, Coligny and your constituency.

Vote with your conscience. Vote with principle. Vote to embody the South African Constitution. Carry our ideals and aspirations. Vote with our backing and support. Vote to voice our lack of confidence in the President.



STOP THE NUCLEAR DEAL
STOP THE SECRECY

Join us!



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LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD! KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!