



LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD! KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

# STOP WILD COAST MINING!

*“How many times must we say no to mining and tell you that mining is killing us?”*

The recent assassination of comrade Sikhosiphi ‘Bazooka’ Rhadebe, an anti-mining activist in Pondoland’s Wild Coast is more than just a brutal reminder of the deadly and dangerous conditions under which anti mining community activists works under.

He is the second anti-mining activist to die in the community of Xolobeni in the Wild Coast in Eastern Cape, which has fought proposed mining in the area since around 2007.

Rhadebe was killed on 22 March, 2016 in his home when two men pretending to be police officers knocked in his door and shot him eight times in the head.

One forgotten community leader who was strongly against the proposed mining died mysteriously in 2008.



Amadiba Crisis Committee is against the proposed mining in the area

Scorpion Dimane’s death never made headlines even though there was speculation that his death might be linked to his strong stance against the mining. Scorpion’s widow says her

husband told her “I will die for this. I won’t keep quiet, they will only mine when I’m dead.”

These deaths are an affront to our constitutional democracy and the

right of ordinary people to protest for their right and participate fully in the decisions that affect their lives.

Eight years down the line, the issue is still not settled and the community anti-mining activists are constantly intimidated and terrorized. The situation there is a reminder of the crisis in places like Glebelands Hostel, where 62 people have now died.

Before comrade Bazooka’s death, he warned his comrades at the Amadiba Crisis Committee about an existing hitlist of which his name was topping the list. So it is clear that more people will continue to die if the government does not intervene and withdraw MRC’s mining licence application in that area. The government must listen to the community that opposes the mining project, as they feel that this project will destroy their livelihoods and the environment.

The Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA) believes that

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## New Social Justice TV Channel launched!

*R2K, SOS and CTV are launching a new social justice TV channel to secure more space for alternative media that is independent of government and corporate control.*

As the world migrates to from analogue television to digital TV, South Africa is falling behind. In SA there has been a great deal of policy confusion over the last few years, with communication ministers constantly changing, conflicts between the ANC and minister Muthambi over DTT policies, and a recent splitting of the communications ministry into the Department of Communications and Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services adding to the confusion.

All countries have committed to migrating to Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) to free up valuable spectrum which can be used for a range of telecommunication services. Spectrum is scarce and it needs to be managed more efficiently, but in SA we have a lot of catching up to do.

Digital migration is a big technological

step forward and it offers many opportunities for improving and diversifying the media world. Unlike analogue TV signals, digital TV signals are digitally “compressed”, and this means that many digital TV channels can be broadcast using the same amount of

spectrum for one analogue channel. So, when South Africa crosses over to DTT a lot more space will become available for new channels. Of course, this is an extremely valuable opportunity for a better, more diverse media landscape.

But we need to make the most of the opportunity in front of us and make sure that corporate media does not totally dominate this new space. Community and alternative media are under funded and face numerous threats, but in South Africa they play an important

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Street Talk Crew recording an interview Photo: www.streettalktv.com

# GLEBELANDS BLOWS THE WHISTLE ON HOSTEL KILLINGS!

The people of Glebelands Hostel have turned to the United Nations Human Rights Council in a plea for protection from hitmen's bullets and violations of their basic human rights.

In the last two years, 62 people have died, most of them gunned down by assassins' bullets. Two years later, not a single person has been convicted. Some residents believe these hits are carried out as part of a campaign of terror to keep the local ward councillor in power and silence questions about service delivery, tender allocation, procurement and suspected nepotism and maladministration.

After two years of inaction from the police, although an investigation by the Public Protector is in progress, in April 2016 Glebelands residents wrote to the UN Human Rights Committee to call international attention to this mass violation of people's rights.

"Our rainbow has become bitter ash in our mouths," the Glebelands appeal states. "Our constitution, the best in the world we are told, we can only admire from a distance but not access our rights enshrined within it."

Behind the hitlist, there are many more daily violations of human rights of the affected Glebelands Hostel community.

Over two years more than 1000 people have been illegally evicted from the hostel, and 14 blocks taken over by politically connected thugs who claim to be acting on the orders of the ward councillor, former Police Minister, and senior ANC and eThekweni Municipality officials. Many of the residents are forced

to make 'donations' to the thugs who use the money to pay bribes and hitmen and buy guns. Residents live in constant fear, and many have left their jobs because it is too dangerous to move from their home.

The police are part of the problem., say residents. Some believe police are working with the thugs, helping them extort 'donations' from the community and protecting the killers behind the 62 deaths. At least 12 residents are reported to have been brutally tortured while many others have been arrested on what seem to be trumped up charges. In March 2014, one person died during

such an interrogation.

There is a fear that in the lead-up to local elections, the violence will only get worse.

In desperation, residents of Glebelands have appealed to the UN Human Rights Council to investigate and send independent observers to the hostel and pressure government to take all necessary steps to end the cycle of violence. "We cannot turn another blind eye to the crisis in Glebelands," said R2K KZN activist Philisiwe Mazibuko. "We call on all people of South Africa to stand with Glebelands."



Private security company, Secureco vehicles' static deployment at Block 57 Glebelands Hostel. PIC: Vanessa Burger

## Donate to Glebelands:

**Account holder:** The Right 2 Know

**Bank:** Standard Bank

**Account Number:** 07 022 865 5

**Branch Code:** 020909

**Reference:** Glebelands

**We value any donation you can make to assist affected families and pay for legal fees. If you experience any difficulties making a donation, please let us know by sending an email to [admin@r2k.org.za](mailto:admin@r2k.org.za)**

## Yekani ukomba imigodi elunxwemeni lwaseXolobeni

**"Mangaphi amatyeli okufuneka sithi hayi ngemigodi kunye nokuba sinixelele ukuba ezemigodi ziyasibulalisa thina?"**

Ukugwintwa kwakutshanje kwe qabane uSikhosiphi 'Bazooka' Rhadebe, ongumququzeleli wabachasa ezemigodi eMampondweni kungaphezulu nje kwe sikhumbuzo malunga nemeko ezimaxongo nobungozi abajamelene nazo abachasi bezemigodi.

Ulitshantliziyo lwesibini ukufela uluntu lwaseXolobeni elunxwemeni lweMpuma Koloni, ebulawelwa umgodi ocetywayo kummandla waseXolobeni kusukela ngo2007.

URhadebe wabulawa ngomhla ka

22 March, 2016 kwikhaya lakhe, apho amadoda amabini ayesenza ngathi ngamagosa amapolisa ankqonkqoza kumnyango wakhe amdubula izihlandlo ezisibhozo entloko.

Enye inkokeli yoluntu elityelweyo eyayichasene ngamandla lento yezemigodi ecetywayo yasweleka ngendlela-mnyama ngo2008. Ukufa kuka Scorpion Dimane zange kube ngundaba-mlonyeni nangona kukho intelekelelo yokuba ukufa kwakhe kunxulunyaniswa nesigidimi sakhe ngokuchasene ngamandla nezemigodi. Umhlolokazi wakhe uthi umyeni wakhe wathi kuye: "Ndiza kufa ngenxa yoku. Andiyi kuthi tu, bayakumba kuphela mhla ndifile."

Ezi zifo zibonisa ukudelelwa kwedemokhrasi yethu kunye nelungelo labantu abaqhelekileyo ukuba baqhankqalazele ilungelo labo

lokuthabatha inxaxheba ngokupheleleyo kwizigqibo ezichaphazela ubomi babo.

Sekudlule iminyaka esibhozo kodwa lombha nangoku awukaqunjeliswa kwaye amaqhawe asekuhlaleni achasa ezemigodi agrogriswa rhoqo. Lemeko isikhumbuzo ngentlekele ekwiindawo ezifana neGlebelands Hostel, apho sokufe abantu abayi 62.

Ngaphambi kokusweleka kukaqabane uBazooka, walumkisa amaqabane akhe eAmadiba Crisis Committee malunga noluhlu-mangama olukhoyo apho igama lakhe lalihamba phambili. Ngoko kucacile ukuba abantu abaninzi baya kuqhubeka nokufa ukuba urhulumente akangeneleli arhoxise isicelo selayisenisi yenkampani yemigodi iMRC kula ndawo. Urhulumente kufuneka aphulaphule uluntu ukuba bayayichasa iprojekthi yezemigodi, njengoko bavakalelwa ukuba le

projekthi iza kutshabalalisa impilo kunye nokusingqongileyo.

iMining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA) ikholelwa ukuba urhulumente kunye namashishini bayatyholeka ngokuphathelene nokuphixanisa uluntu bebathe mbisa ingqesho nto leyo ebubuxoki nje. Ngokutsho kuka Meshack Mbangula, onguMnxibelelanisi we MACUA, "Inye kuphela into uluntu elizayi zuza, kukunqongophala kwamanzi, ukususwa ngenkani kwaye baya kulahlekelwa ngumhlaba wabo."

Uthi urhulumente akulunganga kakhulu xa kuziwa ekujonganeni noluntu kule miba. "I-National Environmental Management Act, efundisa ngokuncedisa inkqubo thethwano uvavanyo lwefuthe kokusingqongileyo kufuneka ihlonelwe ukuze kulandelwe liSebe leZimbiwa kunye nemigodini kodwa ngenxa yorhwaphezulu akukho mgaqo ulandelwayo," utshilo uMbangula.

Itshantliziyo leR2K uNonhlanhla Chanza uthi, "Kutheni abantu bebulawa ngenxa yokwenza into eqhelekileyo kuyo nayiphi na idemokhrasi? Urhulumente kunye neMRC kufuneka bafutseke eXolobeni. Lala ngoxolo qabane uSikhosiphi 'Bazooka' Rhadebe."

# HANDS OFF OUR GRANTS!

## Activists campaigns against SASSA deductions!

From Makwassie in the North West to Sedibeng in Gauteng, from Adelaide in the Eastern Cape to Upington on the banks of the Orange River, every month money is deducted from the accounts of countless beneficiaries of

social grants without their permission. Money is deducted for electricity advance purchases, airtime or for life or funeral policies sold through direct marketing. Caught in a web of unethical and unlawful business practices, the poorest and most vulnerable in society – children, the elderly and the disabled – have had their vulnerabilities exploited and the little social security that the state provides stolen from them. For those beneficiaries, the monthly grant

pay-out day brings no relief, just more poverty and hardship.

The Black Sash's Hands Off Our Grants Campaign (HOOG) has since 2012 highlighted the plight of the beneficiaries and shone a bright light on the unethical business practices that have seen millions of Rands unlawfully deducted and swell the profits of multinational corporations. In 2014 the original tender was declared invalid; in November 2015 SASSA indicated that

it will not be reissuing the tender when it comes to an end in 2017. Instead SASSA will agree to one of the key demands of the campaign – insourcing the distribution of the grants. From 2017, SASSA will be administering and paying the monthly grants itself, not relying on an outsourced service provider.

Another key demand of the Campaign has been a mechanism through which beneficiaries who have had money unlawfully deducted can have their money repaid. Such a mechanism has been set up but has not yet been very effective in dealing with the vast majority of claims.

As of January 1, 2016 no deductions have been allowed from children's grants. However, this matter is being challenged in the Constitutional Court by insurance company, Lion of Africa, as it fights for the right to make deductions for funeral policies from child support grants! When this matter is heard at the Constitutional Court, it is important that we, citizens and beneficiaries of the social security grants, send a very clear message – HANDS OFF OUR GRANTS!



Black Sash and Right2Know Campaign members protesting outside St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town

## Los ons toelaes uit!

Van Makwassie in die Noord Wes Provinsie tot in Sedibeng in Gauteng, van Adelaide in die Oos-Kaap tot in Upington op die oewers van die Oranjerivier, word geld elke maand uit die rekeninge van talle begunstigdes van sosiale toelaes afgetrek sonder hulle toestemming. Geld word afgetrek vir vooruit aankope van elektrisiteit, vir lugtyd of vir lewenspolisse en begrafnispolisse wat deur direkte bemarking verkoop word. Onetiese en onwettige besigheidsmetodes word gebruik om die armste en kwesbaarste in ons samelewing – kinders, bejaardes en gestremde mense – uit te buit en die klein bietjie sosiale sekuriteit wat deur die staat gegee word weg te neem. Vir hierdie begunstigdes van die toelaes bring die maandelikse uitbetaling geen

verligting nie, maar eerder verdere armoede en swaarkry.

Black Sash se "Hands Off Our Grants" veldtog wys ons al vanaf 2012 hoe transnasionale korporasies se onetiese besigheidsmetodes miljoene rande se onwettig aftrekkings van toelaes teweeg bring, en hulle eie winste verhoog. In 2014 is die oorspronklike tender ongeldig verklaar; in November 2015 het SASSA aangekondig dat hulle nie die tender sal hernu wanneer dit in 2017 tot n einde kom nie. SASSA het in teendeel aan een van die belangrikste eise van die veldtog gehoor gegee – om self die maandelikse verspreiding van die toelaes te hanteer. Vanaf 2017 sal SASSA dus self die administrasie en betalings van die toelaes doen, en hulle sal nie meer afhanklik wees van 'n

uitgekontraakteerde maatskappy nie.

Nog 'n belangrike eis van die veldtog is die skepping van n meganisme waardeur beginstigdes van wie geld onwettig afgetrek is hul geld kan terugeis. So 'n meganisme is al ontwikkel, maar in die meerderheid gevalle is dit nog nie suksesvol toegepas nie.

Vanaf 1 Januarie 2016 mag daar geen aftrekkings meer wees van kindertoelaes nie. Hierdie besluit is egter deur die versekeringsmaatskappy *Lion of Africa* na die Konstitusionele Hof geneem, omdat hulle wil veg vir die reg om begrafnispolisaftrekkings van kindertoelaes te maak! Wanneer hierdie saak in die Konstitusionele Hof dien is dit belangrik dat ons 'n baie duidelike boodskap uitstuur – LOS ONS GRANTS UIT!

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role in giving expression to local issues and the concerns of marginalised groups that the mainstream media tends to ignore. Digital migration should result in the strengthening of community and alternative media, and therefore more media diversity. But very few channels – only a tiny sliver of the new "pie" – have been set aside for community media.

To secure more space for alternative media that is independent of government and corporate control, R2K, SOS and CTV

### New Social Justice TV Channel launched!

are launching Channel Free. It aims to be a national free-to-air channel with a focus on social justice that gives a platform to civil society and other progressive voices. The fight for Channel Free is going to be difficult as there are many obstacles and powerful interests standing in the way of the DTT platform, but there are several possible entry points and a huge appetite for a social justice channel. We already have endorsements from a wide range of organisations across

all 9 provinces. Grassroots formations social movements, faith-based organisations, CBOs, NGOs, community journalists, social justice formations and even community projects, over 180 in total, have endorsed the initiative. If we can build on this momentum we will have a project for progressive partners to collaborate in democratising the airwaves. For more information, visit [channelfree.r2k.org.za](http://channelfree.r2k.org.za)

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## STOP WILD COAST MINING!

the government and business are the main culprits and dividing communities by promising them employment which is just lies. According to Meshack Mbangula, National Coordinator for MACUA, "the only thing the community will gain is shortage of water, forceful removal and they will lose their land."

He says the government is not very good when it comes to engaging on these issues. "The National Environmental Management Act that assist with the process of consultation on environmental impact assessment must be honoured and adhered to by the Department of Mineral Resources and the mines but because of corruption syndrome it's not complied to" said Mbangula.

R2K activist Nonhlanhla Chanza says "Why are people being murdered for doing what is normal in any democracy? The government and MRC must foetstek out of Xolobeni. Lala ngoxolo comrade Sikhosiphi 'Bazooka' Rhadebe."

### To donate to the Amadiba Crisis Committee make a deposit to:

**Sustaining the Wild Coast  
First National Bank  
Randburg  
Acc no: 62157997639  
Code: 254005  
Reference: 'Bazooka Cause'**

# RELEASE APARTHEID SECRETS!

*Which companies and people got rich by working with the apartheid government?*

Why do we know so little about the activities of arms companies, banks, corporations and intelligence agencies that made money out of sanctions during apartheid, while supporting an unjust regime? How was the apartheid government able to buy (and sell) weapons at the time when this was illegal in most countries? Which companies and individuals became rich by working with the apartheid regime?

One reason that it is so hard to answer these questions is that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) – which started its work twenty years ago this month – did not have the resources to focus on these issues. Instead it focussed their work on other human rights related crimes such as murder, abduction and assault of activists across the country.

The second reason is that the apartheid government shredded and burnt at least six-million pages of secret documents just before the 1994 elections.

The third reason – which demands civil society to take action today – is that secret records are kept locked away by our democratic government. The South African History Archive (SAHA) working closely with the Open Secrets has tried to use the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA)



R2K Gauteng Activists protesting Photo by: Shayne Robinson

to access such records. This forms part of research focussing on the effects of sanctions-busting as well as economic crime on South Africa's present. Our archives could provide a rich record of the hyper-secretive final years of white minority rule.

Who is denying access: the South African Reserve Bank, the Department of Justice and the Auditor General's office are key state institutions that have denied access to records that may

contain this information. SAHA with the assistance of Lawyers for Human Rights, has been forced to challenge those cases and the failure by the relevant departments to provide convincing reasons for withholding documents that may hold apartheid secrets in court. And the relevant departments have failed to provide a convincing reason why they are protecting apartheid secrets.

The court papers argue that the failure to grant access to these documents

is in effect a denial of our constitutional right of access to information. Hidden histories serve the interests of the powerful and undermine our constitutional democracy. Our right to know is fundamental to understanding our past, holding the powerful to account and to avoid repeating the same mistakes. It is for this reason that the R2K Summit resolved in February 2016 that: *We must support the campaign for the release of all apartheid secret records.*

## ex-Midrand Council workers continue to lobby against corruption!

A community of men and women of the Ex-Midrand Council workers persistently lobby against corruption that they believe still manifests since 1994 up to date.

The Ex-Midrand Council Workers protested outside the City of Johannesburg offices in early April against unfair dismissals which happened 22 years ago for exposing

exploitations and undemocratic labour practises which were taking place. Comrades aim to get their voices heard and hope to be given an opportunity to address their challenges with the

mayoral committee.

They are calling for an end to corruption. Stena Molapo, R2K and Ex-Midrand worker, says "the Ex-Midrand workers are those workers who are fighting and have been fighting for their jobs back since they were dismissed in 1994 for exposing corruption in the defunct Midrand council before it was amalgamated into the city of Joburg".

This community believes that the mayoral committee was not well informed about its requests and hopes that its requests will be taken into consideration. "We are lobbying so that the mayoral committee can re-focus on the matter which was closed or shut due to misinformation. We believe that the mayoral committee was misled".



Ex-Midrand workers protesting outside the City of Johannesburg offices. Photo by: Ntombebongo Tshabalala

# Activists challenge the Eshowe water crisis



The community of Eshowe in Nkanini village under Umlalazi Municipality was without water for over nine months. Their only source of water was a natural water stream which was dirty because animals also used it for drinking.

And next to where the water stream begins there is a farm and the farmer had diverted the water stream to his dam

which he uses for farming and dipping his cattle. And that meant people will get dirty water contaminated by the chemicals used to dip the cattle.

According to the community members fish from the dam started dying and there was a bad smell coming from the stream. "Children were starting to get sick and one was bitten by snake when trying to get water

from the stream", said one community member.

In February 2015, activists started to intervene by contacting the local hospital to find out what could be causing people to have same symptoms in that community and the hospital said it must be the water they are drinking. The activists invited health organizations like SHINE, MSF, TAC, KRCC and TEENS HEALTH to come to the area to teach the community on how to clean water from the stream before drinking or using it for household chores.

Sthembiso Khuluse, R2K activist reported the matter to R2K KZN and the Provincial Working Group suggested a water crisis task team in Eshowe involving other local organisations. The task team asked the counsellor to call a community meeting to tell the people what was happening with the water and he did. He informed the community that the pipe that was supposed to supply them with water coming from dam to the reserve tank had been cut off because they are building a filling station for water cans.

After that meeting the community started seeing water tanks coming in, but the problem was that they came once a week and one water tank was not enough for the community.

The task team called another meeting inviting induna, the chief, ward counsellor and invited the farmer of which he never came and the department of water Uthungulu Region they also didn't show up. In that meeting the community took a resolution to write letter with the chief to invite the farmer to a second meeting and the department of water. After a research revealed there are two boreholes in the area that were working before but the government doesn't want to fix them, the community decided to take further action. They called for more follow up meetings with the district manager.

Despite challenges faced by the activists including threats with arrest, the district manager finally agreed to release a budget for those boreholes to be fixed. The pumps were fixed and now the community have access to clean water.

## Izishosho vuzase Showe ziyinqobile inkinga yamanzi!

Umpakathi wase Showe esgodini saseNkanini ngaphansi komkhandlu waseMlalalazi usuphelelwe amanzi cishe iskhathi esingaphezu kwezinyanga eziyisishiyagalolunye. Okunye okubangela ukusweleka kwamanzi ukungcola komfula wesigodi, ngenxa yokuthi nezilwane nazo ziphuza kuwo lomfula.

Ekanti maduze nasekuqaleni komfula kunomlimi onedamu elikhulu, naye ngokucabangela imfuyo nezitshalo zakhe wase emba umsele odonsa amansi emfuleneni uwayise edamini lakhe. Lokhu ngengenye yezimbangela zokungcola kwamanzi, ikakhulukazi lawo manzi asuke edipha ngawo izinkomo bese ewabuyesela emfuleni.

Uma echaza amalungu ompakathi, izinhlazi zifa mihla namalanga, okwenza umfule ugcine unephunga elibi. Ngokusho kwesakhamuzi "Nezingane zethu sezihlala ngokugula, enye yashawa inyoka ngelinye ilanga, ithi ikha amanzi kuwona lomfula".

KuFebruary ngonyaka ophelile, amashoshozela avakashela abaphathi besibhedlela ngenhloso yokuthola imbangela yokugula kwabantu besgodi, nebala isbhedlela safaka ukuthi amanzi abawaphuzayo nawo anomthelela omkhulu. Amashoshozela abe esebiza imbutho yasekuhlaleni enjengo SHINE, MSF, TAC, KRCC kanye noTEENS HEALTH ukuze bafundise abantu ngohlazwa kwamanzi ukuze baphephe uma bewaphuzayo noma bewasenzisela imisebenzi yasemakhaya.

uSthembiso Khuluse, omunye wezishosho vuzika R2K kwisifundazwe ophinde abe ilunga legungu esiphezulu lesifundazwe uhlongoze ukwakhiwa

kwethimba elizobhekana ngqo nesimo sokuntuleka kwamanzi eShowe, olwakhiwe izinhlangano zompakathi. Emhlanganweni wompakathi babuza umphathiswa wompakathi bamcela ukuthi atshele abantu ukuthi kwenzekani ngamanzi noma yena ikuphi akwenzako. Watshele umphakathi ukuthi ipayipi obekumele liphakele amanzi asuka edamini liye emathangini nakuzinqolobane lidinga ukulungiswa, awukho nomshini ngoba bathelela igalaji likaphethiloli amanzi amaningi.

Ngemuva komhlangano umphakathi waqala ukubona amanzi eza kumathangi, kodwa inkinga kwaba ukuthi beza kanye ngesonto futhi ithangi lamanzi elilodwa alwanele ukuphakela wonke ompakathini.

Ithimba elibhekene nokuntuleka kwamanzi laphinda labiza umhlangano labiza Induna, umphathiswa wesigceme, umlimi, umnyango wamanzi Uthungulu Region bona abazange bafike. Kulowo mhlangano umphakathi wathatha isinqumo sokubhala incwadi ekufaka kuyo nenduna ukuba kumenye umlimi ukuze umhlangano wesibili ube impumelelo kumele kugcizelelwe ukuthi uMnyango wezaManzi ube khona.

Ucwaningo lwakamuva luveze ukuthi kumele kumbiwe imithombo embili kule ndawo ngaphambi kokuba kebe namanzi anele lomphakathi kodwa uhulumeni akafuni ukuzibandakanya, nosekwenze umphakathi wanquma ukuthatha esinye isinyathelo. Nangaphezu kwalokho sebezise eminye imihlangano nemenenja yesifunda.

Naphezu izinkinga ezibhekene naleli izishosho vuzi kuhlanganise

izinsongo zokuboshwa, imenenja yeyisingi ligcina ivumile ukudedele isabelomali kumiphakathi ethintekayo ukuze kumbiwa imithombo kulungiswe futhi kwelulwe

namapayipi. Ekugcineni amaphampu alungisiwe, ekanti manje umphakathi asuyakwazi ukuphuza amanzi ahlanzekile.

## Dear SAPS officer

### YES. I CAN PHOTOGRAPH YOU.

Section 16 of the Constitution protects media freedom. And so do your own rules.

According to SAPS Standing Order 156:

- All police members "must treat all media representatives with courtesy, dignity and respect, even when provoked."
- You may not stop me from taking photo or video, whether of people, buildings, or you.
- You may not seize or damage my equipment or force me to delete photos.

Interfering with me is against the law and Standing Order 156. I will take legal action.

 **RIGHT2KNOW**  
www.r2k.org.za @r2kcampaign fb.com/right2know

# NUCLEAR DEAL: R1 TRILLION FOR WHO?

*The proposed Nuclear Deal for eight new nuclear power reactors by 2030 has been calculated to be the most expensive tender deal in South Africa's history!*

Costing South Africans R1 trillion over a 20 – year project. The Nuclear Deal has come with many promises – an end to our energy crisis, job creation opportunities and a transparent process that will hold the government accountable to the needs of the people. We are yet to see evidence and are

left with many questions – what will such an expensive solution mean for electricity tariff hikes? Can sustainable jobs be created for South Africans in a sector where we have little expertise?

Right2Know partners, Earthlife Africa Johannesburg (ELA) and the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI) have been involved in a court case to try to uncover some of this secret information with the help of the Open Democracy Advice Centre (ODAC). Slowly more information is being revealed, but a lot of it just shows us more about what we don't know.

At the end of December 2015 key information was released in a government gazette, showing that the Department of Energy and the independent nuclear energy regulator and watchdog, NERSA, had agreed in

2013 that South Africa should procure/buy nuclear energy and that a process should begin towards this end. This decision had been kept secret for two years and had occurred without any public participation whatsoever.

Energy Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson revealed late last year that she intends to keep the study delving into the affordability and funding model for the Nuclear Deal secret and out of the hands of the public. According to the Minister the study will be 'classified' and therefore only made available to Parliament's Energy Committee.

The agreement with Russia has been one of great speculation and evident secrecy. The South African government initially announced that there was an established agreement with Russia, but has since changed their tune and claimed a much more considered

and open approach with President Zuma saying we will proceed "on a scale and pace that our country can afford", however, ironically, with very little evidence for this transparency or caution.

A document prepared by the state law advisor in November 2013 around the Nuclear Deal procurement process was revealed through the court action, and shows that there is a firm agreement with Russia to build reactors and an enrichment plant. The project has already been agreed to and future later agreements to be reached on how this project will be funded. The state law advisor advised the Department of Energy that this agreement would need to be approved by parliament, but Minister Joemat-Pettersson ignored this advice and tabled it without any public participation processes.



R2K Gauteng activists protesting against Nuclear Deal Photo by: Shayne Robinson

# HOW TO ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY MEDIA!

*As Right2Know we have consistently said that media freedom and media diversity are two sides of the same coin.*

In a country as unequal and diverse as ours, community media plays a crucial role in democratising the media landscape. We know all too well that the mainstream media often neglects the views and concerns of ordinary poor and working class South Africans. The mainstream commercial media is highly concentrated and monopolised (mainstream print media, for example, is dominated by just four major players). It has its own inherent middle-class and urban biases and, especially in the print sector, a lack of resources prevents journalists from adequately covering the country's news.

But community media is supposed to fill the gaps. South Africa has a vibrant community media sector with



R2K WC Coordinator Khaya Xintolo engaging the media Photo by: Ghalib Galant

very wide reach, and which is supposed to shed light on local issues and give a voice to diverse communities across the country and reflect their concerns. But the independence and integrity of community media is under serious threat. Like the state at a higher level, community media is often "captured" by local elites and becomes a site for factional struggles and patronage. Community media is under-funded and often is

overly dependent on the goodwill of local government and businesses, which insist on favourable coverage. We need to put an end to this. We need to reclaim and strengthen community media so that it serves its intended mandate and is accountable to the communities. We need community media that helps create informed citizens, that holds power to account, and that exposes corruption and abuse at a local level – we demand

community media with teeth!

There are numerous ways that activists and community organisations get active and become involved in their local community media organisations. Community radio stations, in terms of the Electronic Communications Act and by virtue of their license agreements, are supposed to involve communities in ownership, control and content production. Stations must account to communities at Annual General Meetings, democratically elect their Boards, and offer opportunities for people to produce programmes. We must insist on being part of these processes.

You have the right to access copies of your station's licence agreement, constitution and financial reports to find out more about how your local station should function. This information is critical if communities are to hold their stations accountable.

We must also insist that our media outlets give us a platform to express ourselves. As activists, we should become the news. To this end, Right2Know will be holding consultation meetings and workshops in the provinces with the aim of bringing activists and community media workers together under one roof. As an initial step, we will be focusing on select community media outlets that are rooted in communities where R2K has a strong presence. The expectation is for media workers and community activists to deepen understanding of the challenges facing community journalists, to explore ways of building sustained relationships, and to get local Right2Know issues on the news agenda.

## Reading books should not lead to arrest – Liberdade Já!

*17 young Angolans were sentenced on 28 March to jail terms of between two and eight years.*

They were accused of plotting a coup, although prosecutors in the court in Luanda produced no evidence that they were trying to overthrow the government.

The group of 15 men and two women were arrested last June after they held a meeting where they discussed the book *From Dictatorship to Democracy*, by the American author Gene Sharp. The book is about non-violent activism. Many of the accused had been involved in anti-government protests in Luanda over the last few years, and it appears that the purpose of this court case was to silence them.

The 15 men were held in detention for five months until their trial began in November. This was longer than the legal limit for detention without trial in Angola. One of the prisoners, the political rap artist Luaty Beirão, was on hunger strike for 36 days in protest at his detention.

The two women were not held in prison before the trial.

The trial lasted from November until March. The only evidence presented by the prosecutors was a whiteboard with some notes on Sharp's



Angolan youth jailed for 'rebellion'.

PIC: Club of Mozambique via Twitter

book, and a video of one of the accused, Nito Alves, speaking critically about the Angolan government. The message from the judge was clear: criticism of the government, or discussing political alternatives, is seen as a threat and will be punished.

Lawyers have applied for the prisoners' release while they wait for the outcome of an appeal.

As well as the trial of the 17, there have been several other political cases in the Angolan courts over the past year. In September, José Marcos Mavungo, a civil rights activist from the northern oil-producing province of Cabinda, was sentenced to six years' jail for 'rebellion'.

Like the 17 in Luanda, Mavungo was jailed without any evidence that he had done anything illegal.

In May last year, journalist Rafael Marques received a six-month suspended prison sentence for exposing human rights abuses in the diamond mining areas of north-eastern Angola. In a book that he published in 2011, Marques described how the police and private security companies have killed and tortured people in the diamond mining areas. He argued that the army generals who own the diamond mines are responsible for these abuses. These generals sued him for libel and defamation.



### Get Involved

Contact Right2Know :

#### National Office

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#### Gauteng

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Tshabalala

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#### Western Cape

Organiser: Vainola Makan

Tel: 021 447 1000 or 062 0144969

Email: vainola2@gmail.com

#### Other Provinces

National Outreach Organiser:

Bongani Xezwi

Tel: 011 339 1533 or 078 030 5192

Email: bongani@r2k.org.za

*Cut this form out and ask your local candidate for councillor to commit to the promise of accountability and openness!*

## A PROMISE FROM ALL POTENTIAL COUNCILLORS

CANDIDATE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Ward: \_\_\_\_\_

Area: \_\_\_\_\_

As a promise to serve the community members in ward \_\_\_\_\_, I hereby commit to:

### THE RIGHT TO RECALL

- I give the community **the right to recall** me. I will be accountable first and foremost to the community. If I don't live up to my promises, I will step down as councillor.

### OPEN MEETINGS AND OPEN PROCESSES

- I commit to **open meetings and open processes**. I will make sure the community knows about meetings with lots of notice. The agenda and all documents will be available before meetings, and minutes will be published afterwards.
- Tender processes will be transparent, and tender documents and minutes of meetings will be public.
- \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Other key demands)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Witness 2: \_\_\_\_\_

## Who pays for these local government elections!

*In our struggle for our liberation, we wanted to have democratic elections at both the national and local government. The question is, do we have democratic elections for the local government in South Africa? The answer is simply no. How can you have democracy when there is no openness? All the political parties that are campaigning to be elected in the local election are not open to the public as to where do they get their funding. How can one elect a political party that one does not know where are they getting funding?*

*We are engaged in elections, and you do not want to contradict yourself by electing a political party whose donors are the agents of your oppression and exploitation. Of course this does not apply to independent candidates because they are not funded by "private third parties". We know political parties are funded hence they need to be open to us about their funding. For example I cannot vote a political party funded by Lonmin who massacred our brothers and sisters in August 2012, I cannot vote for a political party funded by MRC that is implicated in the assassination of Siphosihle "Bazooka" Radebe.*

*The political parties must be open before we can say they are democratic because secrecy is only for "skelms". As long as the political parties hide their donors then they are not democratic and should not be promoted to government but can only be political parties of themselves. What we need to do in these local government elections is to demand that all political parties be open about their funding donors in their manifestos. We also need to make sure that on local elections, the political parties need to have signed agreements with local communities that they are going to make community halls available free of charge for communities to make councillors accountable to the communities not only to their political parties. Ward councillors must only be led by the mandate of their communities which is nonpartisan and impartial.*

*All ward councillors must be democratic and accountable to their community demands. The council must end the outsourcing which leads to tenderpreneur corruption within the business interests of councillors with their relatives and friends.*

## Get your copy of the R2K Activist Guide to the Gatherings Act, Arrests & Court Processes.

From our offices  
or online: <http://www.r2k.org.za/publications/>

