

Right2Know Campaign hosting events for International Right to Know Day 2015

On 28 September 2015, is International Right to Know Day and the Right2Know (R2K) Campaign will be hosting events in three major provinces to observe this important day...



Durban

In KwaZulu-Natal, it will be hosting a discussion on Open Government Partnership at 1pm on 26 September and there will be a short film on Xenophobia. Next month, South Africa is set to take over as the chair of the OGP but R2K feels that our government does not live up to the constitutional principles of openness, accountability and transparency.

Johannesburg

In Gauteng, it will be picketing outside the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in Sandton against corporate corruption at 11am on 28 September. Over R300 billion in private money leaves South Africa illegally a year. South Africa remains the most unequal country in the world because the super rich strive for super profits at the expense of the people. The biggest way businesses use secrecy to hide money from us is by not paying taxes and using secret overseas bank accounts to hide their profits. It wants to put an end to such corrupt practices.

From 12pm, it will march from Wanderers Stadium to the Lonmin offices in Melrose Arch, to demand answers for Lonmin's illicit profit sharing. Lonmin's attempts to hide profits of at least R400 million per year between 1999 and 2012 in the tax haven of Bermuda has led to it using claims of poverty to avoid paying workers the demanded living wage of R12,500, and to avoid its legal responsibility to build houses for the mineworkers. So far, out of the 5500 houses needed, it has built no more than three show houses. It will demand answers for the secret profit shifting that is compromising and costing the lives of miners in Marikana.

Cape Town

In Cape Town, it will be picketing to take a stand for the right to protest at the City of Cape Town Offices at 12pm at the Civic Centre, Hertzog Blvd entrance on 28 September. The right to organise, protest and speak out is central to all community struggles for social justice. The Regulation of Gatherings Act has become a tool for municipalities to undermine people's right to protest, which is a basic right rooted in freedom of expression and freedom of assembly - and often officials simply ignore the provisions of the Act.

Nationwide Anti-Corruption March

These events are a build-up to the nationwide Anti-Corruption march, which will be held on 30 September 2015. The campaign urges South Africans to join in support of its efforts towards building a more robust democracy and good governance. Freedom of Information is crucial in challenging bad government, which is often ruled by secrecy. We have the right to know!