

New Knowledge: New Tactics
for Social & Economic
Transformation

Khulumani Support Group

When citizens are empowered

‘Real’ democracy can emerge through facilitation of the shift from:

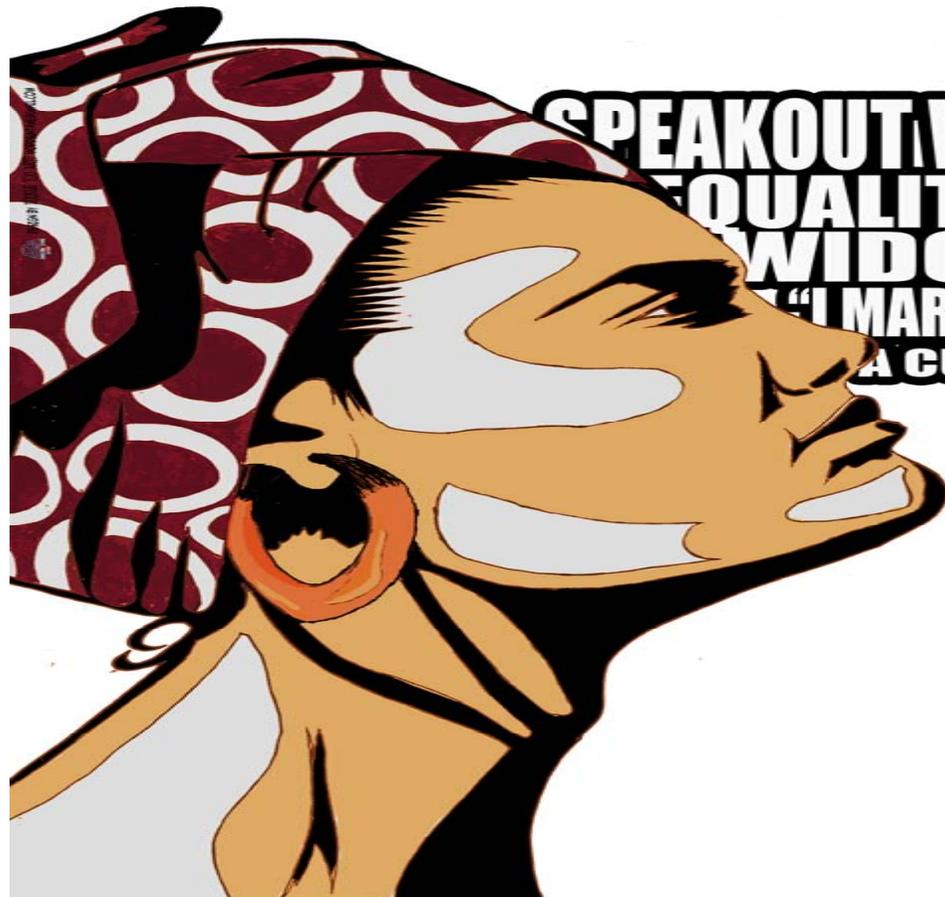
- Citizen servitude to government servitude
- The identification of a shared identity beyond group interests
- The transformation of a state into a nation

Citizens' Roles

- To **exercise agency** - where the people establish their human subjectivity in the wider society & refuse to accept that the world-as-it-is determines what could be.
- To **expand capacity for transparency & accountability** – being sensitive to context
- To be comfortable with uncertainty
- To forge inclusive working economies

women's DAY

9th AUGUST



SPEAK OUT WOMEN SUPPORT THAN STIGMA
EQUALITY FAIR REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES
WIDOWS ARE PEOPLE NO DISCRIMINATION
"I MARRIED YOUR BROTHER NOT YOU"
A CULTURE (MIND) CHANGE IS NEEDED



Challenges in new democracies

- Accountability
- Socio-economic injustice
- Rising criminality
- Citizen insecurity

These challenges are most acute in the most under-resourced communities where most survivors of the abuses of the past reside.

Obstacles to democratic consolidation

- The emergence of informal institutions & practices like **clientelism and corruption** within the formal institutions of democracy – *Malema claims 45% of the profits of tenders that his political influence secured.*
- Access to civil & political rights become challenged – **access to information is potentially under threat** (Protection of Information Bill & the role of the R2K Campaign)

Features of a Stalled Transition or a ‘Hijacked *Revolution*’

The emergence of an *uncivil democracy* is
characterised by:

- Gradual delegitimisation of institutions of law & justice
- Escalation of violent crime and police abuse
- Dehumanisation of the poor & criminalisation of the ‘ethnically other’ leading to physical attacks
- A decline in civility and civil protection in public space
- A retreat of people from the public into private security &
- Growing popular support for illegal measures of control

Becoming an uncivil democracy

An uncivil democracy is therefore, an electoral democracy in which citizens suffer systematic violence by public and private forces of organized coercion that act with the confidence of impunity. It features an elected government, functioning political institutions, a democratic constitution, and even a formal rule of law, along with widespread police violence, corruption, vigilantism, ineffective civil rights, and a discredited judiciary.

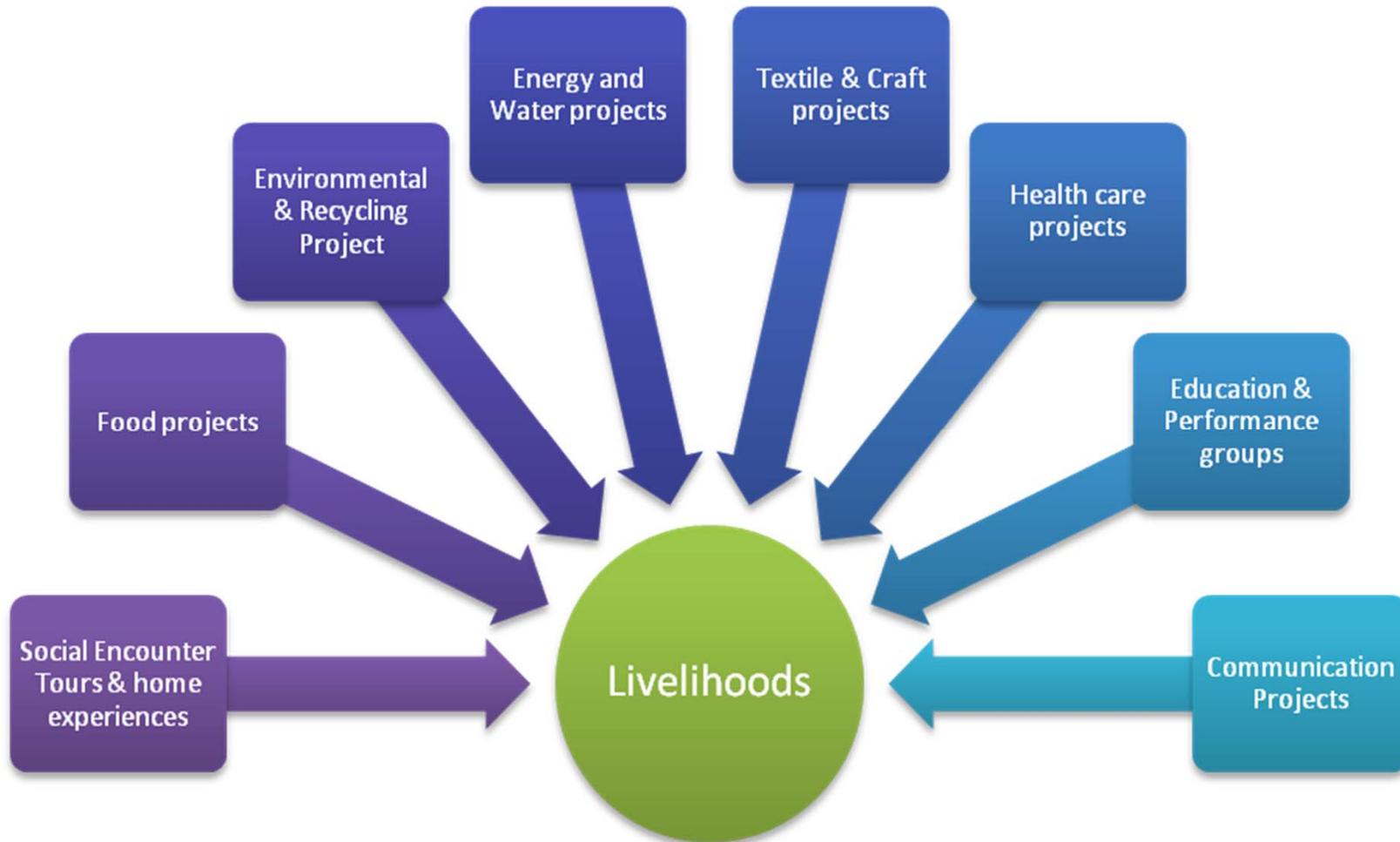
Countering this Trajectory

- Accountability
- Socio-economic injustice
- Rising criminality
- Citizen insecurity
- Building community-based networks of access to information practitioners.
- Building models of rights-based livelihoods programmes.
- Engaging young people in new programmes – Officially Offside, Fingo Festival
- Reweaving social cohesion through community-based public deliberation

Growing Citizen Journalists & Community Information Officers



Building Rights-Based Livelihoods Programmes



Some Community-driven Livelihoods

- Access to nutritious food
 - Manna Food systems : Honey production
 - Kumnandi organic vegetables
- Access to Clothing
 - Silkscreen fabric and T-shirt printing
 - Beading & clothing
- Access to energy
 - Non polluting paraffin distribution
 - Bio-ethanol production from crop waste
 - Solar cooking (eco design)
- Access to water and sanitation
 - Water-rollers project
 - Biogas digesters
- Access to information & communication
 - Ihlazuka Rural Telecentre

Building Youth Participation

Young people taking action for social justice

- Apartheid Lawsuit CD
- Fingo Festival
- Remembering Dis(re)membering: From the Power of Black to the Power of Bling – an exhibition

Officially Offside



FINGO FESTIVAL

MUSIC, DANCE, DRAMA, EXHIBITIONS, POETRY, DISCUSSIONS AND DEBATES AND MORE



BE PART OF GREATNESS!!



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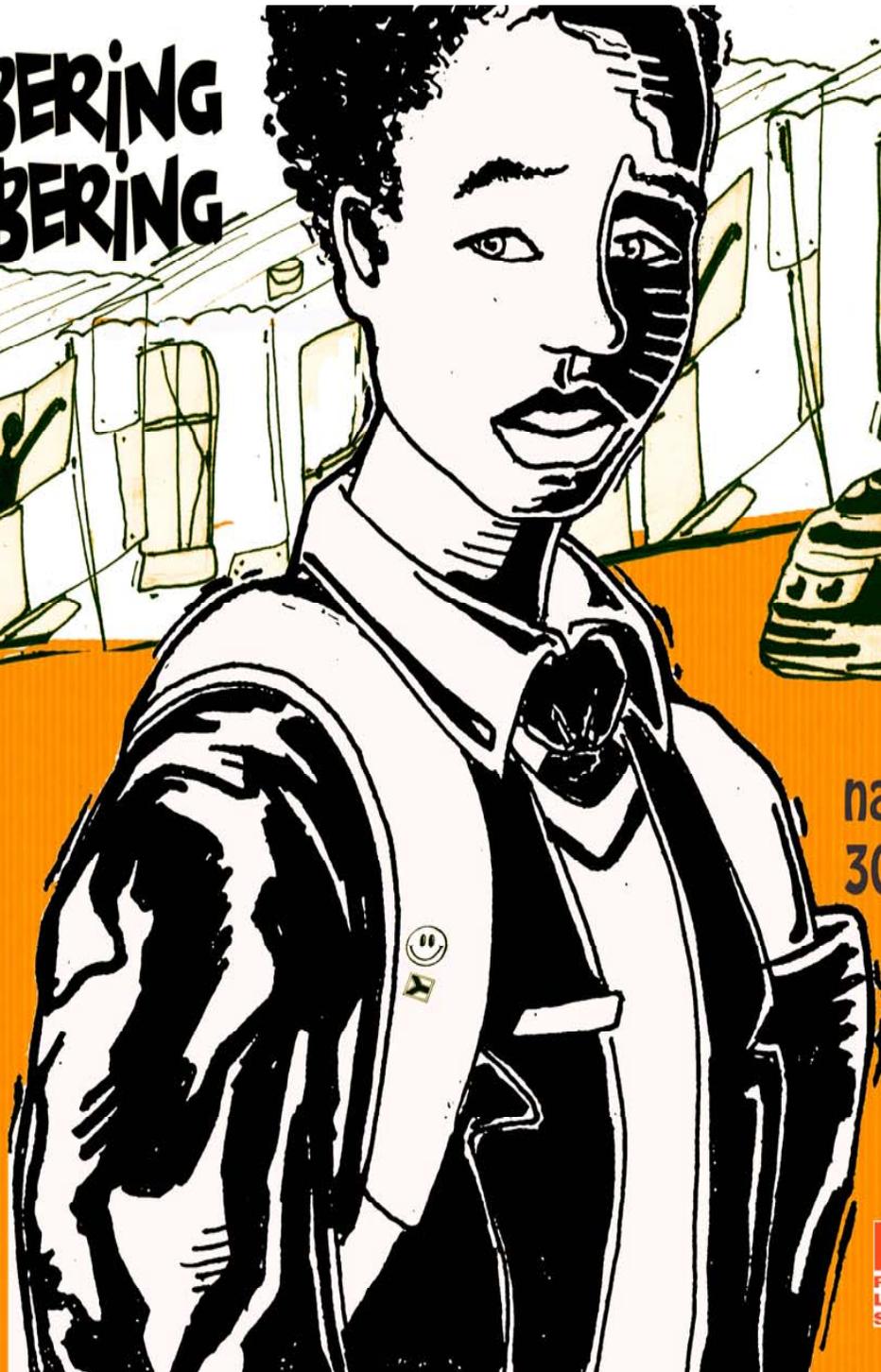


REMEMBERING DIS(RE)MEMBERING

'TELL MY PEOPLE
THAT I LOVE THEM
AND THAT THEY
MUST CONTINUE
THE STRUGGLE'



exploring generational memory
past and present
personal narrative and
public myth through comic art



open happiness

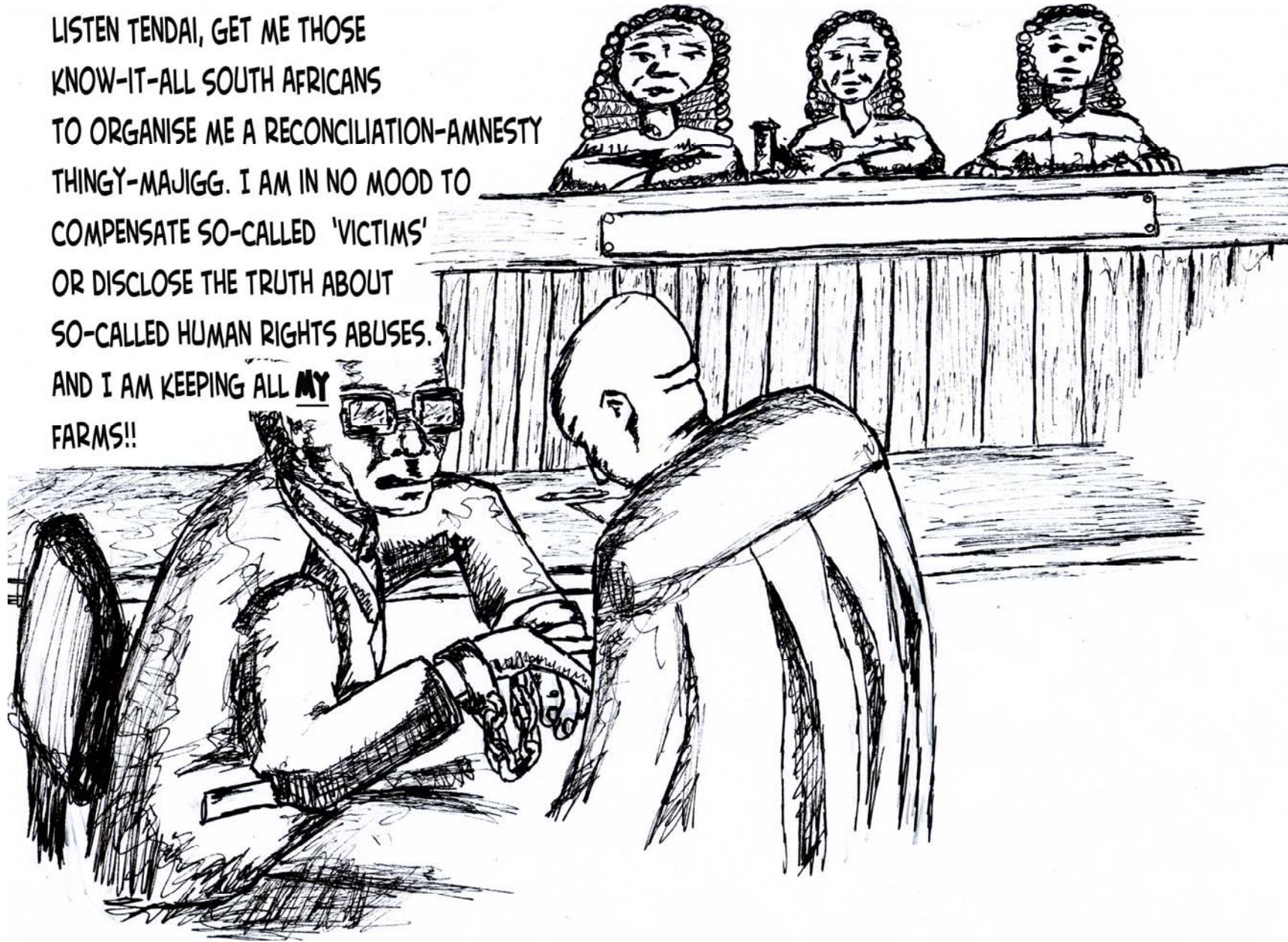


national arts festival
30 june - 10 july 2011



double u arts 0727746952

LISTEN TENDAI, GET ME THOSE
KNOW-IT-ALL SOUTH AFRICANS
TO ORGANISE ME A RECONCILIATION-AMNESTY
THINGY-MAJIGG. I AM IN NO MOOD TO
COMPENSATE SO-CALLED 'VICTIMS'
OR DISCLOSE THE TRUTH ABOUT
SO-CALLED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.
AND I AM KEEPING ALL **MY**
FARMS!!



Community Public Deliberation



Zweli Mkhize at a community survey meeting in Gauteng

The task & the calling

To discover our humanity in the struggles against the 'world-as-it-is'

Struggling in a context of a set of principles to create a new future and new possibilities through our own action.

Consciously dealing with imbalances & corrupting tendencies inherent in relationships between 'resourced civil society organisations' on the one hand & spaces of emancipatory struggle on the other

Politics as the 'art of the impossible'

- *[O]ur practical struggle ... must be the realization of our basic principles in the process of social life and the embodiment of our general principles in practical, everyday action.*

Rosa Luxemburg

A new politics

- From an acceptance of the ‘world-as-it-is’ - structured by *an underlying architecture of institutions and ideas* that seem to work together to uphold the state of things in the interests of those who benefit from it to
- Activities that encourage & support emancipatory moments - or ruptures – where the people establish their human subjectivity in the wider society, and throw off the oppression of being objects of history and domination.

Some principles

- The uncounted count
- The thinking & speaking of those who have not been listened to, matters
- The organising base needs to be radically democratic and egalitarian
- The claims made should be universal - true for everyone, everywhere
- These claims need to be enacted

Politics at a distance from the state

- Citizens do not 'ignore the state' or 'refuse to engage government'.
- They continue to demand the public goods from the state that it is obliged to supply – access to quality education & health care, adequate infrastructure etc.
- But they become actively involved in 'doing politics in the democratic spaces that are opened by struggles.

Building Living Economies

- The biggest shifts of our time have been sparked by ordinary people rejecting the cultural stories that dominated them.
- The world we must create in order to survive is also the vision that unites us.
- Our quality of life would be stunningly different if we based economic decisions on life values rather than purely financial values.
- David Korten, *Living Economies*

2nd EDITION,
UPDATED &
EXPANDED

A DECLARATION
of INDEPENDENCE
from WALL STREET

AGENDA FOR A **NEW** **ECONOMY**

From PHANTOM WEALTH
to REAL WEALTH

DAVID C. KORTEN



Some building blocks of a local living economy

- Sustainable agriculture
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Local zero-waste manufacturing
- Independent retail
- Green building
- Community capital
- Local and/or fair trade clothing
- Education
- Independent media and communications
- Business development / professional services
- Transportation
- Health and wellness
- Arts and culture

Starting with food

- Food is often a logical place to start. Everyone needs and cares about food, and food can be grown almost everywhere, is freshest and most wholesome when local, and is our most intimate connection to the land.

Developing the *Kumnandi Brand*

- Local food was probably picked within the last day or two and is crisp, sweet, and loaded with flavour. The closer you are to your food source, the fresher and healthier that food is for you and your community

A Rural Organic Community Brand



Kumnandi Standards

- Locally grown – in rural communities or townships by local farmers
- Fresh – harvested on the day of collection
- Natural – No chemical fertilizers and pesticides

Components of the Kumnandi Social Franchise

- Kumnandi Brand: www.kumnandi.org.za
- Membership of the Kumnandi Community
- Agri-Marketing Co-operative
- Kumnandi hands-on learning & exchange visits
- SDC Project support programme
- Project Monitoring & Evaluation: Baseline & Impact survey including statistical data package

A conclusion

‘Our goal is to challenge the casting of the needy into spaces of abandonment associated with the mute lengthening of distances and stretching of states of temporariness ... through a living politics ... that voices suffering and struggle towards reordering what is visible and audible, what is political and just.’ (Anna Selmeczi, 2010)

Advice from Arundhati Roy

... To love, to be loved. To never forget your own insignificance. To never get used to the unspeakable violence and the vulgar disparity of life around you. To respect strength, never power. Above all, to watch. To try and understand. To never look away. And never, never, to forget ...