

Cope's Dexter raps about unpublicised plundering

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Phillip Dexter.

There are few moments in Parliament that one takes note of an outstanding speech, subtle but brutally true, carefully crafted with a touch of magic.

Long gone are the days when Horace van Rensburg and Harry Schwartz, both then Progressive Federal Party MPs, scored witty points against then National Party ministers.

Even Pik Botha and Piet Koornhof, in the front Nat guard in the 1970s and 1980s, had their moments of replying brilliance.

Wednesday's debate on the mineral resources budget looked set to be a dreary affair, but the debate was spiced up dramatically by Phillip Dexter of Cope.

He dedicated his speech to Gil Scott-Heron, "the Godfather of rap", who died earlier this week.

Scott-Heron was famous, he said, for his unique style of fusing music and poetry, famous for his anthem: "The revolution will not be televised." His words, Dexter argued, rang clearly for us today.

"People say things are not related, that what happens in one place does not influence another. Yet the working class and the poor of our country will tell you that's not true. "What the state does, and what the bosses ask it to do, all lead to the same objective unless we resist them. More ruthless influence for more ruthless exploitation," Dexter extolled.

Secrecy was "the blanket that the corrupt, the exploiters, the bourgeoisie, those in power, use to hide their nefarious activities. Secrecy is how they use and abuse; secrecy is how they take what's not theirs and never have to account for it".

Turning to mineral resources portfolio committee chairman Fred Gona's extolling of the virtues of the "National Democratic Revolution" in the debate, Dexter argued that if the government of the day had its way "the counter-revolution will not be published".

If the government of the day had its way, “we will not hear about the workers of Grootvlei mine who have been ripped off by the families of the new governing elite... because the counter-revolution will not be publicised.

“If the government of the day has its way, we will not read about the toxic mine dumps, where radioactive materials are left for children to play with... because the counter-revolution will not be publicised.

“If the government of the day has its way, we will not hear about the corrupt lawyer and his partner, who steal mining rights to sell to the highest bidder or the highest office,” he said, rather subtly.

“If the government of the day has its way, we will not hear about the so-called liquidator (brought in to liquidate the working class), who was convicted of fraud but rehabilitated to debilitate the working class. Because the counter-revolution will not be publicised.

“We will not hear about the nationalisation of derelict mines, about the fracking and wrecking of the Karoo, about Imperial Crown Trading, Kumba, (Duduzile) Kunene and (Phemelo) Sehunelo, about Kimberley Consolidated Mining, about (Enver) Motala and Aurora, about the National Nuclear Regulator and the radioactive Robinson Lake, about asbestos at Ga-Mopedi and Ga-Mshushu, about Siltek International Investments and its directors, about the Guptas and the Zumas, or about the case numbers 837/11/1978, 207/7/1989 and 85/3/2010.

“Look them up (Mineral Resources Minister Susan Shabangu).”

Under the Protection of Information Bill everything he had said in the debate “will be a secret”. -
Donwald Pressly

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