How can the government spend R8,12 billion of your money, then tell you it's none of your business?

In last year's budget R4,38 billion of tax payers' money went towards funding cloak-and-dagger operations in the Defence Force.

This year a further R3,74 billion has been allocated.

What exactly these rather expensive covert operations entail we'll never know. The government doesn't seem to think it concerns any of us.

Surely this money could have been put to better use. Right now in South Africa 9 million people are unemployed, 7 million live in squatter camps, and 14 million cannot read and write - not to mention the 300 000 houses which

have to be built every year just to catch up with the existing housing backlog.

The time has come to insist on true democracy and on openness about all areas of government, especially fiscal policy.

It's our hard-earned money. All South Africans have a right to demand that it be put to use in a manner which promotes peace rather than conflict, development rather than continued decline.

After all, improving the living standards of the millions of deprived people in our country is everyone's concern.

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