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## LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE

Recipient of the UNICEF Maurice Pate Human Rights Award – 1997  
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### PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**The Constitution of Namibia provides for the right to human dignity, and part of this right is access to safe, sufficient and affordable water.** However, this right goes hand in hand with a responsibility to use water appropriately. This responsibility applies to every person in the country.

**The Legal Assistance Centre is calling on the public to realise their right and responsibility for water by uniting in conserving water during this period of drought.** Whilst this is not the first drought to affect Namibia, the increasing population size and urbanisation are factors that have contributed to greater pressures on the water reserves in Windhoek in particular. This means that the current water crisis is different to the past and unless as a country we change our pattern of water utilisation, we will soon face significant shortages. Even though individual home owners may not use a significant amount of water, we can all still make efforts to save water. At the other end of the scale, **the Legal Assistance Centre calls on businesses that use large amounts of water to implement protocols for the best utilisation of water.**

A key responsibility for water conservation is the elimination of water wastage. There should not be taps or pipes that are leaking. The current water crisis has highlighted the need for short- and long-term changes to be implemented to address the situation. One short-term change we can all address is reducing and eliminating water wastage. We urge all people to report leaks and **the Legal Assistance Centre calls on the relevant municipal authorities to implement a rapid response to cases whenever they are reported.**

The Legal Assistance Centre has drafted a template workplace water policy.  
We hope that businesses will utilise this document,  
adjusting and adapting it for the needs of their individual situation.

Contact person for members of the media: Rachel Coomer ([rcoomer@lac.org.na](mailto:rcoomer@lac.org.na))

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