

P O Box 604
4 Marien Ngouabi Street
Windhoek
Namibia

Tel: Int +264 61 223356
Fax: Int +264 61 234953
E-mail: info@lac.org.na
Web: www.lac.org.na



Toni Hancox (Director)

Corinna van Wyk
Sharen Zenda
Willem Odendaal

LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE

Recipient of the UNICEF Maurice Pate Human Rights Award – 1997
JP Karuaihe Human Rights Excellence Award – 2008, 2010, 2014 and 2016 and Social Responsibility Award – 2013

28 September 2018

Re: 2ND LAND CONFERENCE

The Legal Assistance Centre is aware of reports that a number of civil society organisations and other movements have opted to boycott the above Land Conference. We respect and understand their positions.

After lengthy discussion we have opted to take part in the Conference. We hasten to say that we have serious concerns about the composition of delegates invited to the Conference which we believe is particularly weighted in favour of government. However, this is also an opportunity for dialogue and for us to argue a perspective based on the law and on evidence we have collected from the grassroots communities we deal with on a daily basis. This perspective may not come to light to the delegates in any other manner.

We place on the record that the LAC's attendance should not be used to legitimize the process but should be seen as an opportunity for us to raise reasoned legal and constitutional issues as well as factual information gleaned from our extensive engagement with concerns of access to land.

As the spokesperson from Right to Know (R2K) said at a breakfast meeting hosted by the Action Coalition and the Namibia Media Trust this morning: "There is a space for civil society outside the room and a space for civil society inside the room." We aim to be both.

Kind regards

TONI HANCOX
Director

Trustees of the Legal Assistance Trust:

Clement Daniels (Chairperson) Esi Schimming-Chase Taamba Iithete Dantago Garosas
Tangeni Amupadhi Norman Tjombe Toni Hancox (ex officio)