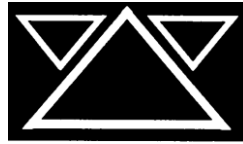


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LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE

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

PRESS STATEMENT: COVID-19 State of Emergency and Lockdown Measures Call on Security Personnel

In light of the World Health Organizations designation of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) as a global pandemic, the President of the Republic of Namibia on 17 March 2020, declared a state of (public health) emergency in Namibia. The President and National Assembly, subsequently ordered the lockdown of the Khomas and Erongo Regions, with additional stringent measures to ensure the public health of all Namibians and people who find themselves within the borders of Namibia.

The Legal Assistance Centre herewith calls upon the Namibian Police, the National Defence Force, and any other persons and organizations mandated to ensure compliance with security measures, to act in accordance with the Police Act 19 of 1990, the Defence Act 1 of 2002, and all subsequent promulgated regulations, when dealing with persons during the state of emergency and lockdown. All police and security personnel are called upon to ensure no human rights violations occur, which have not been derogated in terms of the Constitution of Namibia.

All Namibians, permanent residents, tourists, refugees, asylum seekers, and/or any other person of any legal status, is urged to comply with the Governmental regulations during the state of emergency and lockdown.

Toni Hancox

Director

27 March 2020

This press release is supported by the Action Coalition, a coalition of civil society organisations advocating for access to information.

Trustees of the Legal Assistance Trust:

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