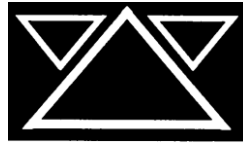


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LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE

Recipient of the UNICEF Maurice Pate Human Rights Award – 1997
JP Karuaihe Human Rights Excellence Award – 2008, 2010, 2014, 2016 and 2020 and Social Responsibility Award – 2013

16 June 2022

Honourable Prime Minister of Sweden
Ms Magdalena Andersson

Per email.

Dear Ms Andersson

We address you as one of the non-government organisations in Namibia that are supported by Afrikagrupperna (AGS).

The Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) is a public interest law firm in Namibia, the only of its' kind. It was established in 1988 before independence in an effort to counter the atrocities then committed during the independence movement. Sweden was a strong supporter of the Namibian independence movement and in fact provided continued support to Namibia thereafter.

Namibia is a democracy that it is still finding its feet. Our current government comes from the members of the freedom fighters and have, respectfully, grown out of touch with the people of Namibia. Dilapidated hospitals, sub-standard education, growing informal settlements and 50% unemployed youth gives an indicator of the challenging progress of the new Namibia. The youth are becoming impatient.

It is within this context that civil society, such as the LAC, is necessary. In essence we have been termed an opposition party. We do not just hold the government to account in assisting constituents but also support them where we can with providing input to legislation and policy. In this context, advocacy also plays a very important part in our efforts. While we have dedicated projects these do not define the only work we do.

The World Bank considers Namibia as an "upper middle income country". The reality is that we have one of the highest inequality levels in the world second only to South Africa in terms of the gini-coefficient.

The World Bank's definition has resulted in many countries no longer funding NGOs in Namibia. While this is understandable since there has to be a bottom line, it has meant even more hardship for the ordinary Namibian than before.

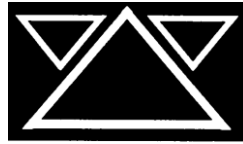
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Trustees of the Legal Assistance Trust:

Clement Daniels (Chairperson) Norman Tjombe Taamba Iithete
Tangeni Amupadhi Toni Hancox (ex officio)

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We are a not-for-profit organisation. We survive only on donors. And donors fund activities, not core funding essential for the administration of such activities. Without being dramatic, the LAC would not be here were it not for AGS and per implication, the support of the Swedish government. We need this funding to do justice to the hopes we have for Namibia.

Namibia is not an island. Our hearts go out to the people of Ukraine and the hardship they are suffering. It can never be justified. We ask you to sincerely consider also the majority of the peoples of Namibia who suffer also hardships but have no support at all.

We thank you for reading this plea and we request you to visit our website www.lac.org.na to see what it is we do to make a difference. Please let us continue to make this difference.

Sincerely

TONI HANCOX
Director

CC also to:

The Honourable Minister of Finance

Mikael Damberg

The Honourable Minister for International Development Cooperation

Matilda Ernkrans

Trustees of the Legal Assistance Trust:

Clement Daniels (Chairperson)

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