



Media Release

08 February 2017

For immediate release

RE: NOTICE TO DELIVER A PETION ON THE LAND BILL AND A MARCH IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE VICTIMIZATION OF HON. BERNADUS SWARTBOOI EXERCISING HIS DEMOCRATIC RIGHT IN HIS MOTHER LAND, ON THE 14TH OF FEBRUARY 2017 (OPENING OF PARLIAMENT)

1. The National Assembly on the 1st of February 2017 received a Notice to Petition Parliament from a group calling itself "Landless People's Movement". The Notice, according to the group, was meant for them to stage a march and bring petition to Parliament about the proposed Land Bill, on the 14th of February 2017.
2. Today, 08 February 2017, the Secretary of the National Assembly, Madam Lydia Kandetu and her team, on request by the group, offered audience to their representatives, who wanted to discuss issues surrounding their request to petition Parliament.
3. At today's meeting, the "Landless People's Movement" representatives were informed that, following the announcement by His Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, at the official opening of the Judiciary, that the Land Bill will be put on hold to allow for further consultation, and as such, will not be tabled in Parliament soon.

4. Therefore, **the question of petitioning Parliament becomes premature** at this stage, where Parliament does not have in its possession the Bill which is being petitioned.
5. The 14th of February, 2017, is an important day in the Parliament Calendar, as this is when legislature will officially opened for 2017. This is a special event, and besides, Parliament will not entertain any other activity on the day.
6. As such, the “Landless People’s Movement”, as a matter of courtesy and respect for the State procedures should postpone their activity to any day after the 14th of February 2017.
7. The National Assembly reiterates that, the respect for the will of the people to petition Parliament is of paramount importance in any democracy. However, this should be done by following the laid down procedures, and not in an opportunistic chaos-infused manner.

ENDS

Issued by: MS LYDIA KANDETU
SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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