

## Amadiba Crisis Committee 2023-02-27: The ACC responds to the CONTRALESA President Mr Mokoena on t...



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Today at 09:14

### Amadiba Crisis Committee 2023-02-27: The ACC responds to the CONTRALESA President on the TKLA

On Sunday morning 25 February, Newz Room Africa interviewed Mr Kgoshi Mathupa Mokoena who is the President of the Congress of Traditional Leaders SA (Contralesa). It is very sad to hear him argue about the **Traditional Khoi-San and Leadership Act (TKLA)**, misleading the public that the case against this Act in the Constitutional Court is about abolishing traditional leaders.

Our community of Umgungundlovu in Mbizana, Eastern Cape, is one of the communities challenging the TKLA in the Constitutional Court. We do it together with our local traditional leaders. They signed at the top of our affidavits that argued that the TKLA must be repealed and that the consultations were flawed.

TKLA is an attack on rural democracy and customary law. Our leaders know that they are custodians of the land, which is owned by the community as a collective. We stand together against the relentless push to take our land, to destroy our land or to hurt life in the ocean with oil and gas exploration.

The President of Contralesa filled his interview with personal attacks against our lawyer Wilmien Wicomb. But we admire her as one of the leading legal experts on our country's land rights and customary law. We need more human rights lawyers defending the rights of our communities against traditional leaders who are busy making deals with transnational corporations without the consent of the community.

Traditional leaders who stand with their people are too few in our country. Mining Minister Gwede Mantashe was trying to save Shell Petroleum by running around to Kings and Chiefs to get their signatures. The house of Qaukeni of AmaMpondo was an exception. All others decided to sell-out with no concern to the climate crisis hitting agriculture and now even killing people in floods in Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and KZN.

We fight this battle on the ground and in the Courts, with traditional leaders who we respect, or without them if they don't deserve our respect. Respect is only earned if it goes in both directions, Mr Mokoena.