



CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Friday 4 July 2014

Ms Tracey Henry
CEO: Tshikululu Social Investments

Dear Ms Henry

Dikeletsong Citizens' Advice Bureau - evaluation

I am delighted to support this funding application. I know the work and achievements of the Pretoria CAB well, through giving legal advice from time to time, and helping with its constitution and other matters. Last year I was the guest speaker at its AGM.

This connection has come about partly through my family. My sister, Jean Richter, and her family have been volunteers at the CAB over many years. And recently, with great reluctance, but impelled by an overriding sense of duty, she took on the chairpersonship.

The organisation was floundering and seemed set to close. Instead, she has effected a striking turnaround: renewing the committee, creating a website, innovating computer systems, re-energising staff and volunteers, refreshing volunteer lists by drawing new people in (including, students and foreign workers' spouses) and undertaking new funding applications – like this one.

So I really am delighted to support it. Citizens' advice bureaux across the country have closed as funding gets tougher and volunteer spirits sag. The Pretoria CAB is the country's oldest, and it is important symbolically and practically that it should survive.

And the work it does justifies its survival. It is quite extraordinary what it achieves on a tiny budget of about R200 000 per year. It deals with over 5000 cases and recovers money and assets for its clients in multiples of what it costs to provide its services.

More importantly, perhaps, are its unquantifiable achievements – the pensions secured, the redundancy payments received, the identity documents or unemployment insurance documentation obtained: and, generally, an assertion, through the practical help they receive at the CAB, of the dignity and power of the unresourced and vulnerable people who turn to it.

With warm good wishes and appreciation for your interest.

EDWIN CAMERON

Justice Edwin Cameron
Constitutional Court, Private Bag X1, Constitution Hill
Braamfontein, 2017, South Africa
Tel: +27 11 359 7444 Fax: +27 11 403 8888
E-mail: cameron@concourt.org.za