

Itumeleng Lesofe

From: Brett Allais and Karen MacDonald [brettallais@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2006 1:17 PM
To: Banking Enquiry
Subject: Complaint of bank charges!!

AT LAST!!!!!! Someone somewhere is willing to address this issue!!!! Thank you!!!!!!

My mother is a pensioner, who works part time as a tour guide - earning about R1,500 - R2,500 per month - not much.

She does not qualify for a state pension, as she owns her house - thank goodness. It's worth about R550,000 and it's all she has. Her levy comes to +- R900 each month, which does not leave a lot left over for groceries, petrol, etc. She worked out recently that when she withdrew her entire salary of R2000, it cost her R27.90!!! Add on top of this the monthly "ledger fees" and other fees, it does seem extraordinarily unfair!

Bank Charges in SA are amongst the highest in the world, and while some can afford them, others simply cannot. Surely some sort of "tier system" could be implemented, ie : depending on income would depend on charges, OR if this would be too complicated, just don't charge pensioners bank charges! I have many times stood in queues in banks with elderly folk who are confused enough with modern technology, let alone puzzled with the high charges!

My husband is a professional who earns R14,000 per month, and his job has taken him to the UK & Switzerland - he is highly shocked upon returning to SA and examining his bank charges! He says it is so much more than what he was being charged over there!

It seems that the high charges affect the "previously disadvantaged" as well as the rest of us - and in the so called "New South Africa" one would imagine that the government could bring about a system that is fair for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to partake in this discussion.

Yours sincerely
Karen MacDonald