

Itumeleng Lesofe

From: Justin Lippiatt [JLippiatt@masthead.co.za]
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2006 11:00 AM
To: Banking Enquiry
Subject: bank charges too high

Hello

I have been involved in the financial industry for several years, working for a bank and in the life insurance sector and have witnessed huge imbalances when it comes to bank charges.

The banking sector in South Africa seriously needs to amend their bank charges. I have a First National Bank current account and credit card

My complaints are as follows:

- Being charged a monthly fee to have a cheque account. This charge should be waived as I should not have to pay to have an account.
- Being charged a fee for drawing my own money from an ATM (which is my own bank)
- Being charged to transfer funds between my own accounts online
- Cash deposit fee should be waived. The public should not be charged for the banks risk of carrying cash.
- Debit interest charges on credit cards should be reduced as the credit balance interest rates are poor to say the least.
- Banks make huge amounts of money on bonds. It should be structured so that if you have a bond through a bank, your account charges should be waived as they are making large amounts of money from interest anyway.

Unfortunately the banks in South Africa operate like a cartel and the public is being robbed on charges. As a country that is meant to be part of the global market we should be following examples of other countries where you don't pay charges if you have a credit balance. This will encourage people to use their funds more carefully and encourage a more 'money wise' public.

I hope your investigation is successful and trust that we as South Africans stop being robbed by banks.

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