

Itumeleng Lesofe

From: Nick Hauser [nickhauser@mweb.co.za]
Sent: Monday, May 29, 2006 3:03 PM
To: Banking Enquiry
Subject: HIGH TIME ARROGANT BANKS ARE BROUGHT TO BOOK

Dear Sir/ Madam

As in so many cases, capitalism ran wild under apartheid and ministers like Owen Horwood who permitted an elitism hegemony to exist within banking institutions.

The Mzansi account I thought was perhaps the start of democracy for the people in terms of affordable banking.

KEEPING YOUR OWN MONEY IS TOO EXPENSIVE

To simply bank one's salary or cash/ cheque remuneration costs the average man or woman a fortune. Most banks charge a lump sum to DEPOSIT your own cash. After which one is charged per thousand rand.

The system is sophisticated and only semi-transparent. Salaries are very low for bank employees. Service is poor. Bank advertising on TV, in magazines and press and on radio is almost always promising service which is never delivered.

It is an industry based on exploitation of workers and exploitation of the customer base.

I was shocked to find that in the United Kingdom, there are no charges on personal accounts. True, business accounts are quite highly charged, but the system respects the small amounts that the average person banks and withdraws repeatedly over the period of a month.

AFRICAN renaissance demands not only a single African currency one day, but also equality when it comes to bank charges. The banks exploit the poor too.

A person earning between R1500 and R5000 per month CANNOT afford to bank their salaries. It is too expensive to deposit, to draw from tellers or ATMs.

Employers refuse to pay with cash or uncrossed cheques. So whether you are unsophisticated or a sophisticated middle-class individual, one is still paying unnecessarily exorbitant prices for mundane, computer driven tasks.

The cost of an ATM machine is recouped within 2 months of its purchase by the bank due to the massive tariffs imposed upon withdrawals and other transactions. Our decade old democracy must be commended for finally getting around to interrogating the banking monopolies about their high-handed and

exploitative practices.

Finally, may I say that my experience working in advertising over the years on several bank accounts, has led me to truly believe that it is not unreasonable to expect bank charges to be severely reduced.

HOW CAN SOUTH AFRICANS BE EXPECTED TO CULTIVATE A SAVINGS CULTURE WHEN AS MUCH AS R350 to R600 per MONTH IS EATEN UP BY UNRATIONALISED AND OVER-PRICED BANK FEES?

The enquiry is to be welcomed. Let us pray it has teeth enough to make the gods of the banking community bow their knees to the long-suffering SA public.

Good luck.

Regards

Nicholas P. Hauser

PS - Please feel free to reply to my mail.