JOHANNESBURG HIGH COURT TRUST

IT002096/2018(G)

High Court, Pritchard Street, Johannesburg, South Africa

Tel +27(0)113350000

email: highcourttrust@gmail.com

JUDGES' CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR OF HIGH COURT BUILDING, JOHANNESBURG

1. Provision has been made on the seventh floor of the High Court of Johannesburg for a judges' conference room.

2. A fully equipped conference room for judges is vital for continuing judicial education of permanent and acting judges and for the orientation of newly appointed judges.

3. The space on the seventh floor has, however, remained vacant, without furnishing or equipment, and remained unutilized for some years. This was due to financial constraints and national austerity measures to which the judiciary was requested to contribute.

4. Judges of the Johannesburg High Court have now received a grant from the Johannesburg Society of Advocates (Johannesburg Bar), which has agreed to fully fund the furnishing and equipping of the conference room in accordance with the requirements specified by the judiciary. The centre will be overseen by the Johannesburg High Court Trust.

5. Procurement and installation at the cost of the Johannesburg Bar has commenced with completion due by mid-March 2019. The contribution by the litigating legal profession demonstrates the realization of the importance of the facility for the strengthening and continued development of judicial capacity through education and the effectiveness of the courts. It is a reciprocal relationship reinforced by the fact that provision has also been made in the court building for the robing rooms for counsel on the seventh floor and for the accommodation of the Johannesburg Attorneys' Association at no costs to the professions, on the ground floor.

Trustees: The Honourable Judge President PM Mojapelo,

The Honourable Judges W L Wepener and N T Siwendu

6. It is intended to proceed immediately with the furnishing and equipping of the conference room in view of the fact that the judiciary can ill afford to wait for the facilities in the light of the fact that no other space is appropriately equipped within the court building. It is also important to proceed immediately before possible cost escalation as available funding has been capped at the quoted price. It needs to be reiterated that this will be a direct procurement by the Johannesburg Bar for the judges with no funds being handled by the judiciary nor court management.

7. On behalf of all the judges of Johannesburg I express appreciation for the enthusiastic support for the project.

8. The centre, currently known or better known as the Continuing Judicial Education Centre, will require further funding in order to make it an efficient, up to date centre with appropriate facilities to ensure quality continued training of judges. To this end, we have secured the services of a firm of attorneys who is prepared to receive funds on behalf of the Trust and account to the Trust on a regular basis.

9. We believe that it is in the interests of the legal fraternity and the litigating public, that the project be supported and expanded to assist to ensure that justice is dispended according to expectations and in accordance with the Constitution and the law. Funding sources will have to be acceptable to the judiciary and in line with and not repugnant to judicial independence and integrity.

10. The Trust will also embark on other projects for the benefit of judges, practitioners and the public.

11. We call on parties who are in agreement with the sentiments and goals herein expressed to assist financially by making contributions into an attorney's trust account as follows

    Couzyns Inc Trust Account
    Nedbank
    Kruis Street
    Account number: 1906 355 010
    Branch code: 190605
    Ref: Your name and JHCT (Johannesburg High Court Trust)
    Please forward an email to confirm payment and receive acknowledgment to: Nakka@couzyns.co.za

12. Couzyns Inc will acknowledge receipt of all contributions although it will be obvious to contributors that the identity of contributors should not be disclosed to judges.

PM MOJAPELO DJP
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
February 2019