

## **NOTES / GIDEON SAM / SEPTEMBER 2008**

I, Colleen Beverley Bainbridge, hereby set out, to the best of my recollection, what occurred in September 2008, when Adv Arendse SC was chairing the Adjudication Committee into the award of a tender for the payment of social services.

1. I have worked for Adv Arendse since 1997 as his secretary/personal assistant. Given the extremely busy and demanding nature of Adv Arendse SC's practice, I spend a great deal of time in his company, often working after-hours and on weekends when necessary. Accordingly, over the 15-odd years in this position, we have formed a very close working relationship with him. I am privy to all aspects of his practice and indeed his life in general. It is therefore with absolute conviction that I can state that he is one of the most moral, incorruptible men I have ever worked with.

It goes without saying that one of the foremost requirements of my job as secretary/personal assistant is to treat all matters I am involved in, with absolute confidentiality.

When Adv Arendse SC was appointed to chair the Adjudication Committee into the award of a tender for the payment of social services, this aspect of confidentiality was raised to one of utmost secrecy. For example: documents relating to the matter were hand delivered/collected by designated personnel to/from Adv Arendse SC and/or me only; a strict protocol of signing for these documents was followed at all times; files and documents were kept under lock and key; my computer was kept in a locked office; and special passwords were created for the storage of files thereon.

2. During August/September Adv Arendse SC started to draft his report and we worked on it for a number of weeks, together with Cheadle Thompson Attorneys as legal advisers.
3. On Sunday, 21 September 2008, I arrived at the office early in the morning in order to work on the report. I liaised with Adv Arendse SC a number of times regarding

queries/questions I required clarity on. Adv Arendse SC came into the office in the late afternoon, approximately 15h00/15h30. Shortly after his arrival, Mr Gideon Sam arrived and spent some time in Adv Arendse SC's office.

4. After escorting Mr Sam out of his office after their meeting, Adv Arendse SC came into my office and his words to me have been embedded clearly in my mind since that day. He said that for the first time in his career he had been offered a bribe. All that was required of him in order to attain immense financial benefits was that he should use his influence in the award of the SASSA tender. He was absolutely shocked and appeared almost stunned. I immediately made a contemporaneous note regarding the incident which I saved on my computer. (This computer at a later stage crashed and was subsequently replaced. I have, despite diligent search, been unable to find a record on any back-up disk(s) in my possession) Adv Arendse SC drafted and sent a letter reporting the incident to Dr Serge Belamant care of CPS (copied to the members of the Adjudication Committee).