Democratic Alliance's Response to My Vote Counts Campaign

Dear Ntsiki Baqwa

Thank you very much for your letter of 31 March 2014 addressed to Helen Zille and Dion George. They have asked me to respond to it.

The Democratic Alliance is on record as supporting a sensible regulatory framework for party political funding that would balance any potential subordination of the political processes by donors, with the right to privacy. We have submitted various private members' bills over the last decade to do just that, but these efforts were blocked by the ANC.

Moreover the complex issue of regulating political party funding cannot be dealt with in a piece-meal fashion by calling merely for the disclosure of voluntary donations. There are a number of other issues that must be included in any future regulatory system, such as so-called "investment arms", donations from foreign governments and the abuse of government resources and advertising to promote the interests of a particular political party.

In the circumstances, therefore, and in the absence of an agreed regulatory framework that is applicable to all political parties equally, the DA is not prepared to disclose its donors. Many of our donors believe - correctly in most cases - that their interests would be prejudiced were it to be known that they had donated to a major opposition party. This is particularly true of donors who bid for government contracts, though the perception is not confined to them. For this reason, we give our donors the unequivocal guarantee that their identities, and the donations they give, will remain entirely confidential.

For that reason, we are unable to accede to your request.

JAMES SELFE MP

Chairperson: Federal Executive

Democratic Alliance
Tel: +27 21 403 3505
Mobile: +27 82 556 0252
Office: M347 Marks Building, Parliament, Cape Town