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December 2022

Dear Client,

I have been contemplating writing this letter for some time.

The last thing I want to do is bore you with the same complaints and frustrations you have to deal with every day. On the other hand I feel it is necessary to use this opportunity, as we do every year, to thank you for your continued support, understanding and loyalty to OJD. Without you OJD would not have been able to survive for 30 years!

Most of you also know that Sonja celebrated her 25th year with OJD in November. No mean feat. Congratulations and a big Thank You.

Towards the end of 2021 my partner in the office informed us that he has sold his practise and will be moving to Knysna. In effect placing direct competition in the same building.

Some of you have already noticed our improvement to the entrance as well as the new name AEP on the sign board.

2/....

At OJD it is business as usual. We continue the very frustrating interaction with SARS. It has become even more unbearable as most of the government employees are still "working from home". They continue to issue endless queries without knowing what they are supposed to check or confirm. Just ticking the blocks.

As an example we had a query last week asking for a taxpayer's bank statements to show his monthly salary deposits, even though the employer has issued an IRP5 certificate which was submitted to and captured by SARS together with the annual IRP501 reconciliation.

We are grateful to report that we have not lost many clients due to the current economic circumstances, although most of us seem to be treading water and just holding head above water, hoping for change / improvement soon.

I hope most of you have seen or heard Rob Hersov's criticism of the government. I attach a copy of his response to critics.

I have mentioned this in previous letters as well. (And I quote from this article) Albert Einstein said: The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.

When Rob Hersov made his initial speech, almost nobody responded. Even when Biz News and News 24 released the speech, there was no or very little support coming from big business and influential people in the country or even overseas. I am afraid if we leave it to the politicians there will not be any improvement, even with an election looming, I doubt very much if it will make any difference to the situation. History has shown us that different political parties cannot work together. People are becoming more self-centred and selfish by the day. We have an attitude of entitlement.

If we do not have a total shift in mind set, we can expect a revolt from the masses of unemployed, uneducated and impoverished youth.

Again, unfortunately I have to inform you that our fees will increase in the new year due to the huge increase in input costs such as paper, fuel, ink and utility bills. I saw the results of research done on accounting firms and I can assure you our fees are very competitive and in most cases less than the average charged. We do appreciate your understanding of this very sensitive issue.

Please note that OJD will be closed from **15th of December 2022 until the 4th of January 2023.**

Please ensure that we have all the relevant documentation for VAT returns (due on the 23rd of December 2022) and PAYE returns (due on the 6th of January 2023) as well as CIPC annual returns and payments.

From all of us at OJD we wish you a peaceful and safe holiday and Festive Season and hope you will enjoy the company of friends and family.

Regards

Nico, Sonja, Suzette & Rina,

RIGHT OF REPLY | Rob Hersov responds to criticism: I'm not leaving SA, and I'm not stopping

news24 Rob Hersov

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0:00

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Cape Town businessman Rob Hersov called President Cyril Ramaphosa 'useless' and a 'disgrace' in a speech that went viral earlier this month.

Supplied

South Africans have become so acclimatised to the endless failures we experience and learn about on a daily basis, and yet so few leaders in business are prepared to say in public what they say to each other in private, writes Rob Hersov.

I think I understand why people who don't know me are taking a crack at me, or who criticise my language or maybe even my lack of respect for our so-called leaders - but my message is simply that the ANC has failed this country.

I have made that point on a number of occasions in a very robust (some would say coarse) manner.

South Africans have become so acclimatised to the endless failures we experience and learn about on a daily basis, and yet so few leaders in business are prepared to say in public what they say to each other in private - so I needed to be forceful and angry to be heard.

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And heard I was! The very next day two cabinet ministers called me (one to try and persuade me he wasn't useless and actually learned some of his mining skills at AngloVaal Mining).

The cabinet ministers complained about how I described them as useless, and that I lack respect for the state and that I should use formal channels. They put my anger down to the fact that I was smarting from being denied my request to buy some regional airports when in fact this conference speech was made on 1 September, well before that approach. The speech was released at a later stage by BizNews.

A News24 opinion piece took a crack at me with a very personal unfounded attack from someone I've never met or spoken to, questioning even why I should have the 'confidence' to make this speech criticising the ANC.

READ | OPINION: Bruce Robertson - Rob Hersov, a graceless charlatan and patronising paper tiger

Well I have news for them. It's very clearly not just me! A recent poll by the Social Research Foundation (SRF) showed that South Africans believe the country is moving in the wrong direction. Another SRF survey showed that the majority of South Africans expect conditions to be worse after ten years if we continue with Cyril and the incompetent ANC.

Why do I speak out? Because as Albert Einstein once said:

I The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.

Because as a consequence of the government's failures, hundreds of thousands of South Africans are going to bed every night hungry.

Because millions of children cannot study after the sun sets, because there is no electricity.

Growing unemployment

Because half of the young people in this country cannot aspire to ever having a job. Millions of young men and women are denied the opportunity to go out and work to improve the lives of their children.

Because there is a hideous crime crisis in this country, with women and children worst affected.

READ | Ebrahim Harvey: Food crisis - Children should not be going to bed hungry in post-apartheid SA

Because those who have the means to leave are doing so in droves - doctors, nurses, engineers, graduates, families - having given up hope that things will ever change or they can ever feel safe.

All of this chaos, destruction and hopelessness has been rained down upon us by the ANC, and the responsibility falls in the lap of Cyril and his cabinet of incompetence.

I love this incredible country dearly. I am a very proud South African and am not going to leave. I am not going to stop calling out the ANC. I am not going to stop encouraging others to speak out forcibly too.

I am not going to stop until such time as there is a South African government in place that does not serve its own interest but serves the interests of all its people.

Hopefully it won't be too late.

Cry! The Beloved Country.

- Rob Hersov is a South African businessman.

**Please note this article was updated on 21 September 2022 at 13:23 to reference the poll done by the Social Research Foundation.*

**Want to respond to the columnist? Send your letter or article to opinions@news24.com with your name and town or province. You are welcome to also send a profile picture. We encourage a diversity of voices and views in our readers' submissions and reserve the right not to publish any and all submissions received.*

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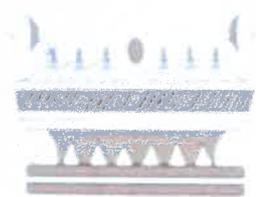
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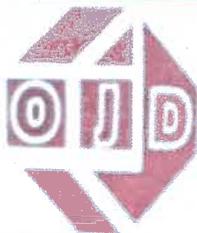




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