

MEMORANDUM

MILITARY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
MILITERE VETERANE ADMINISTRASIE

RECEIVED FROM MVA
FOR CMVO
1985-10-11

Reference : MD/MVA/104/12/11

Verwysing :

/5 July 1985

Enquiries : J H Temple

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Telefoon :

TO : CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE

AAN :

FROM : MILITARY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

VAN :

INDIAN SERVICEMEN AND EX-SERVICEMEN'S LEGION

- 1 Your memorandum HSAW/KAAP/104/12/11 of 7 May 1985 with attached copies of the abovenamed Legion's letter of 18 April 1985 and earlier letter of 5 October 1984 was received in this office on 1 July 1985.
- 2 This office has at no time had correspondence relating to the abovenamed Organisation.

Recommendation for reply as requested

Regret, and for reasons as follows:

State subsidies are only paid in aid of services rendered by registered welfare organisations, and not for their establishment, and in circumstances where there is no overlapping of such services.

The Durban Indian Branch of the Cape Corps ex-Servicemen's Legion assists towards catering for the needs of veterans, and serving members have access to the Welfare Officers of the S A D F and other welfare organisations.

Background in support of the above recommendation;

- (i) From the letters referred to in paragraph 1 it could be that the Chairman, Mr Varma, possibly had some knowledge of the fact that the Headquarters of the South African Legion, in handling claims on behalf of the National War Fund, was receiving an administrative grant from the Fund. This could be a possible reason for Mr Varma's letter being directed to the National War Fund, but wrongly addressed to the Union Buildings, Pretoria, instead of to Johannesburg, hence the delays in transmission.
- (ii) Neither the National War Fund nor Headquarters of the S A Legion, Johannesburg has knowledge of the Organisation in question: "Indian Servicemen and ex-Servicemen's Legion" of Durban, nor has the Headquarters of the Cape Corp ex-Servicemen's Legion, to

which Organisation Durban and Pietermaritzburg branches of the Indian Legion is affiliated, and which operate under its Fund-Raising number.

- (iii) The Indian Branch No 2 of Durban, originally linked to the Cape Corps Ex-Service's Legion, has for many years dissociated itself from affiliation and in 1982 was declared defunct by default by the Cape Corps Ex-Servicemen's Legion. It is believed that this Branch always wanted to be known as the "Natal Indian League"; the Branch unveiled a memorial to which ceremony the Cape Corps Legion (the old parent Organisation) was not invited.

It is not known whether Mr Varma's Organisation is linked to or an off-shoot of the earlier Indian Branch No 2.

- (iv) The Durban office of the Administration: House of Delegates (Department of Health Services and Welfare) reports that Mr Varma's Organisation is not authorised to collect contributions in terms of the Fund-raising Act of 1978; that Mr Varma at one time acquired British citizenship and had some difficulty in regaining South African citizenship. The office holds a file on Mr Varma.



N N WEBSTER : MAJ-GENL
CHIEF MILITARY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Copies to: (a) Administrator : House of Delegates
Private Bag X54330 Durban
For information : Mr van Oordt

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(b) The President : S A Cape Corps
Ex-Servicemen's Legion
P O Box 74 Gatesville 7764
For information

(c) The National Secretary
S A Legion
P O Box 8751 Johannesburg
For information

JHT/MC