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October 2009

Dear Friends

**COMMENDATION IN RESPECT OF THE VUSUKOTI INITIATIVE AND ESST'S INVOLVMENT IN
COMMUNITY AND EMPOWERMENT**

I wish to commend the Educational Support Services Trust for the innovative and creative work it has done in the field of community education and empowerment over the past 23 years and for its proactive engagement with the critically poor, destitute, disempowered and underdeveloped communities of South Africa.

I view the Vusukoti Programme as a considered response to South Africa's crisis of persistent chronic poverty - as it contends with key concerns which I share:-

- The need to heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social and economic justice and fundamental human rights;
- The need to unleash the potential of our people to help them escape the shackles of poverty;
- The need to awaken the soul and spirit of our people and to reaffirm values which have been lost along the way;
- The need to encourage our communities to think innovatively beyond their immediate circumstances and to take charge of their destiny;
- The need to promote and inculcate the spirit of Ubuntu - which cultivates a belief in and value of oneself so that we believe in and value others.

May your initiative, which seeks to galvanise our poor and destitute communities to action, effectively contribute towards bringing about more change and improving the quality of life of ALL our people.

May God bless and protect you.

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God - if there is this love among you,
then all will know that you are my disciples."