

15th October 2012

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: LETTER OF COMMENDATION FOR A MR BLAIR HENRY

Dear Sir/Madam,

As an institutional affiliate and Executive Committee member of Botswana's Ngamiland Council of Non Governmental Organisations (NCONGO), Mr Blair Henry has duly asked me to write this letter of recommendation for him.

I met Blair nearly two years ago in my native cosmopolitan village of Maun - Botswana's so called 'gateway' to the world famous Okavango Delta . This was shortly after he began working for NCONGO as a volunteer Training and Capacity Development Advisor under the auspices of World University Service Canada. At the time, NCONGO was a weak and fledgling coalition of only seven (7) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs') from the Ngamiland district/province. Without wherewithal to rent out its own office premises or even to employ full time staff, Blair inadvertently became *de facto* Executive Director. Supervising a small team of volunteers, Blair successfully mobilized financial resources from within and without government of Botswana and grew NCONGO to a now 50 member strong coalition of CSOs in just two years. He co-wrote a multi-partner project bid document that ultimately won an unprecedented **BWP 140, 000, 000.00** (US\$20million) from USAID. Designed to help strengthen Botswana's capacity to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic, funds from the Maatla Project have helped NCONGO hire its first full staff complement.

Blair possesses a diverse repertoire of functional competencies rarely found in a single individual. These range from critical thinking and analysis, creative writing, inter-personal communication/networking, resource mobilization, programme design and project management, advanced participatory methodologies and ICT which he used to establish NCONGO's website, email systems and social marketing campaigns. Blair is also a performing artist in his own right and, beyond his call of duty, has taken advantage of the unique transcendental qualities of performing art to further galvanize Maun's multiple ethnic groups in to a unified, vibrant community. Blair is indeed a proven change maker and long after he is gone, the people of Maun will remember him as one who contributed significantly to their social capital. I therefore unreservedly recommend him for work with any organization of his choosing.

Yours faithfully,



Tiego Mpho

Development Director (Tlhare Segolo Foundation)
NCONGO Board Member

