



CDT Foundation NPC

Passionate about uplifting and empowering black churches

The CDT Foundation was established during the Apartheid era to lend money to black churches when access to finance was restricted. The German Lutheran Church and its associates were the main funders and the funding resulted from addressing various needs where the CDT was able to facilitate transactions on behalf of the funders to the common benefit of all.

The Christian Development Trust was established in 1979 and the Foundation was registered in 1999 as a Section 21 Company and took over the functions of the CDT. As an ecumenical loan fund providing low interest rates to Christian Churches and Organisations for property transactions within the borders of South Africa, the Foundation has assisted Churches and other Christian organisations to build, complete and buy properties and had over 70 active loans in the past financial year.

In addition to providing finance, small grants are occasionally made to worthy causes. Prior to the 30th of November 2013, the Foundation managed the Small Project Fund of Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V and also Bread for the World in South Africa. This facilitated once off grants being made to Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) and the like. Additional organisational support is provided, particularly relating to financial management and corporate governance. The focus is on Christian Churches and Organisations, but is not only restricted to Christian bodies.

The CDT Foundation according to its former CEO, Louise Ballot, is the only organisation that focuses on lending money to churches for property transactions in South Africa. She is also quoted as saying that “the Foundation has its mandate and continues its ordinary but valuable work”. Through the work of the CDT, churches are additionally enabled to grow and launch new initiatives that will make them more financially sustainable through pursuing alternate income streams. In some instances there are even opportunities to establish schools in the churches to increase the number of children accessing a quality education.



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