

Centre for Community Technologies
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Dear Prof van Reisen,

Letter of Support

Situated in the School of Information Technology at the Nelson Mandela University, the CCT was established by Prof Darelle van Greunen in 2014 to focus on information and communications technology (ICT) solutions that can play a catalytic role in solving everyday problems for people living in remote, financially stressed and under-serviced communities. Technology, and more specifically mobile technology, is playing a key and rapidly increasing role in facilitating community-level knowledge, health, connectivity, economic opportunities, access to infrastructure and services, and management of natural resources. The role of the CCT is to use technology and innovation to contribute to a more prosperous and inclusive society, to accelerate inclusive economic growth, and improve people's everyday lives. The CCT engages with community members, particularly in South African townships and rural areas, to co-design technology solutions for everyday challenges in these communities so that technology becomes an enabler in their lives. The CCT integrates transdisciplinary research and innovation with community engagement through the development and implementation of apps and other smart technologies that enable the advancement of education, health, rural and social development, particularly in low income communities. This is combined with training, networking and policy analysis and advice. The CCT, which is part of the Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Technology, is the only research unit at a South African university that specifically focuses on ICT solutions for Africa, by Africans, in Africa.

One of the focus areas of the CCT is that of digital health in low-resourced areas. The Centre for Community Technologies has executed a considerable number of projects to strengthen the healthcare systems in South Africa and more specifically, the Eastern Cape Province. This province is known to be a very challenging province given the rurality of the area, the poverty and the size of the population. The Eastern Cape Province presents challenges ranging from best case scenario in urban areas to worst case scenario of no access to services in rural areas. As such, it provides a broad spectrum of opportunities to implement solutions that address all the needs and challenges. The CCT has good working relationships with a number of partners, ranging from Government to Private Sector as well as Not for Profits. Annexure A outlines some of the recent projects that were undertaken.

We look forward to working with the partners in the VODAN Project and pledge our support to expand the initiative to South Africa.

Sincerely



Professor Dr Darelle Van Greunen

Distinguished Professor Information Technology
Director: Centre for Community Technologies

Annexure A

 School Health Assessment Tool	Solution also interoperable with National DBE systems
 Observation & Monitoring of the Aged	For use in Care for the Aged Facilities
 Ncediso™	In Google Play Store – used in multiple African countries
 Find-my-Mojo Mental Health App	In Google Play Store – used in all African countries
 Mood Recorder – Catch-ur-Mood	In Google Play Store and also available from home page of Federation of Mental Health SA
 KaziHealth App	Self Management of wellness Personalised risk profile with tips and tools to manage own health
 DigiTB™	To enhance compliance Includes information and counselling modules
 Cancer App	Conceptualisation of App to provide information on Cancer in general. Also specific cancers.

 DigiRec	Electronic patient record
 mHealth4Afrika	Electronic patient and maternal health record
 Impilo Health in Every Hut	Electronic patient records for NCDs
 Zanempilo	Electronic health record for mobile clinics
 Lifelong Learning Training sites	Cancer care workers Teachers Healthcare Professionals Cause of Death
 Digital Skills for Healthcare	Training site and materials for digital skills