



14th June 2010

Dear Friend,

I thought you would be interested and pleased to know that Ken was recognised for his work in tackling homelessness in London with the award of an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list which was released over the weekend

Ken has been Chairman of homeless charity Thames Reach since 1996 during which time the charity has helped tens of thousands of homeless people to turn their lives around.

You know Ken, of course, but I thought that I should remind you of some of his wider interests. As well as being Chairman of Restoration Partners, a boutique technology merchant bank with Partners located in London and Silicon Valley, Ken was named as one of the UK's top 10 most influential black people in the Powerlist 2010. He is a non executive director at both Thomson Reuters and ENRC (Eurasian Natural Resources Corporation). Ken was appointed to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority IPSA, at the end of last year. IPSA has been tasked with designing a new scheme of expenses for Members of Parliament that both commands public confidence and enables MPs to do their jobs.

All of these roles keep Ken extremely busy, however as the keeper of the diary, I know that working closely with Jeremy Swain, the Chief Executive of Thames Reach is always high on his priority list.

Commenting on the award, Ken said: "I am very proud of the Thames Reach team – leadership, staff, volunteers and service users. Together we have justified confidence in achieving our vision of ending homelessness in London by the end of 2012.

"We know it is about much more than simply providing soup or shelter. We know that our service users want to be independent - especially they want to be independent of drugs, alcohol and handouts. Thanks to the support of the Department for Communities and Local Government we are opening an employment academy which will help people around London to find the key to independence – work.

"We also know that achieving our goal of ending street homelessness by 2012 needs us to work in partnership and I am delighted that we are playing a leading role in the Mayor's London Delivery Board. Back in the 1990s homelessness was taken for granted with many people living in shanty towns in places like Lincoln Inn Fields and the Waterloo Station Bullring. Those days are behind us thanks to the provision of outreach and safe accommodation: now we need to finish the job by helping homeless people to rebuild their self-esteem by gaining the life-skills they need to live independent lives. "

Please pass this on to any of your colleagues who you think would like to hear about Ken's terrific achievement.

Yours faithfully

Alexis Harris

EA to Ken Olisa