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MANUALS

IN ACCORDANCE WITH

THE PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO

INFORMATION ACT (NO. 2 OF 2000)

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT, 2000, (ACT NO.2 OF 2000) PUBLICATION OF THE INFORMATION MANUAL

I, Mbangiseni David Mahlobo, in my capacity as the Head of Department of the Mpumalanga Provincial Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, hereby, in terms of section 14(2) of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (Act No. 2 of 2000), publish the Information Manual of the Mpumalanga Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, as well as the categories of records that are automatically available as contemplated in section 15(1) of the said Act, for general information.

Given under my hand at Nelspruit on 14th March 2011.

MR. M.B. MAHLOBO

HOD: CO PERATIVE GOVERNANCE

AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS



MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF COGTA

INFORMATION MANUAL IN TERMS OF SECTION 14 OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT, 2000 (ACT NO. 2 OF 2000)

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Mpumalanga Department of Co-operative Governance & Traditional Affairs (COGTA) recognizes and respects the right of access to information as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (Act No. 2 of 2000) (hereafter referred to as "the Act") gives effect to the constitutional right of access to any information held by any public or private body that is required for the exercise or protection of any rights. The Act sets out the procedures attached to such request.

Section 9 of the Act, however, recognizes that such right to access to information is subject to certain justifiable limitations, for instance limitations aimed at;

- The reasonable protection of privacy;
- Commercial confidentiality; and
- Effective, efficient and good governance.

Section 14 of the Act obliges bodies to compile a Manual, which could assist a person to obtain access to information held by the public body and stipulates the minimum requirements a Manual has to comply with.

The purpose of this Manual is therefore to inform a person on how to obtain access to records held by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and thereby giving effect to Section 14 of the Act.

1.1 MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF COGTA

Vision

Integrated sustainable people centered development.

Mission

Facilitate and co-ordinate Intergovernmental Structures and Developmental agencies for sustainable integrated Service Delivery through Public Participation and Traditional systems of governance.

Values

- i) Professionalism;
- ii) Activist approach;
- iii) Goal orientated;
- iv) Community-centre;
- v) Excellency in service delivery and development

Constitutional mandate

The Department of **COGTA**'s mandate is derived from Chapters 3; 7 and 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.

2. STRUCTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COGTA

2.1 Organizational Structure

The MEC for the Department of **COGTA** is Mr M.B. Masuku and the Accounting Officer and Head of Department is, Mr M.D Mahlobo. The Department of **COGTA** is divided into 5 (five) Programmes, namely:

Programme 1: ADMINISTRATION

- Office of the Member of the Executive Council (MEC)
- Corporate Services
 - Office of the Head of Department (HOD)
 - Chief Director: Corporate Services
 - ✓ Legal Services;
 - ✓ Communication & ITS;
 - √ Human Resource Management;
 - ✓ Planning & Programme Management;
 - ✓ Transversal Issues & Employee Assistance Programme (EAP).
- Finance (CFO)
 - Financial Accounting;
 - Management Accounting;
 - Supply Chain Management;
 - Risk Management.

Programme 2: LOCAL GOVERNANCE

- Municipal Administration;
- Municipal Finance;
- Public Participation;
- Capacity Building;
- Municipal Performance Monitoring, Reporting & Evaluation;
- Service Delivery Improvement.

Programme 3: DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- Spatial Planning;
- Integrated Development Plan (IDP);
- Local Economic Development (LED);
- Municipal Infrastructure;
- Disaster Management.

Programme 4: TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT

- Traditional Institutional & Resource Administration;
- Rural Development & Land Administration.

Programme 5: HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS

- Office of the Chairperson;
- Committees & Local Houses of Traditional Leaders.

2.2 General contact details of the Department of COGTA

Physical address : No 7 Government Boulevard

Riverside Park Building 6 **Nelspruit** 1200

Postal Address : Private Bag X11304

Nelspruit 1200

Telephone Number :

013 766 6087 013 766 5282

Fax Number Website

http://cgta.mpg.gov.za

3. INFORMATION OFFICERS

The Head of Department is in terms of section 1 of the Act the information officer of the Department of **COGTA**.

The contact details of the Information Officer and the Deputy Information Officer designated in terms of section 17 of the Act are as follows:

Information Officer : Mr M.D Mahlobo

Head of Department Private Bag X11304

Nelspruit 1200

Tel No.: (013) 766 6087 Facsimile No.: (013) 766 8425 **Deputy Information Officer**

Ms H.G Shube

Chief Director: Corporate Services

Private Bag X11304

Nelspruit 1200

Tel No.: (013) 766 6556 Fascimile No.: (013) 766 8425

4. THE GUIDE ON HOW TO USE THE ACT

The Guide on how to use the Act is available from the South African Human Rights Commission.

Please direct any queries to:

The South African Human Rights Commission

PAIA Unit

Research and Documentation Department

Private Bag 2700

Houghton

2041

Telephone: 011 484 8300 Fax: 011 484 1360 Website www.sahrc.org.za

5. RECORDS HELD BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COGTA

The Department of **COGTA** holds the following records which could be requested in terms of the Act are as follows:

- 5.1 Departmental Strategic Plans, Implementation Plan and Performance Report;
- 5.2 Departmental financial records;
- 5.3. Departmental budget;
- 5.4 Departmental personnel records;
- 5.5 Departmental reports relating to Summits and Workshops;
- 5.6 Policy documents and legislation on Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- 5.7 Media products;
- 5.8 Provincial Gazettes;
- 5.9 Departmental Communication Strategies and Plans, and
- 5.10 Records relating to contractual documents signed with various service providers.

6. RECORDS AUTOMATICALLY AVAILABLE

Refer to information provided under section 15(1)

7. THE REQUEST PROCEDURE

Any person who wishes to obtain access to information held by the Department of **COGTA** may access such information by completing an application form as prescribed in the Government Notice No. R187 of 15 February 2000.

The requester must complete the prescribed form enclosed herewith and submit it as well as payment of a request fee, to the Information Officer at the postal or physical address, fax number as stated above.

The prescribed form must be filled in with enough detailed information to at least enable the Information Officer to identify the record or records requested, the identity of the requester, which form of access is required and the postal address or fax number of the requester.

If the requester is unable to read or write, the request for the record can be made orally by the requester. The Information Officer must then fill in the form on behalf of such a request and give him or her copy.

After lodging the request with the Information Officer, the application will be processed within 30 days.

If a requester requests information in a particular form (e.g. a paper copy, electronic copy etc) then the requester should receive access in that form, unless doing so would interfere unreasonably with the running of a public body concerned or damage to the record or infringe on the copyright not owned by the state.

If a requester requests information on behalf of somebody else, the capacity in which the request is being made must be indicated.

7.1 Fees payable for a request

The Act provides for two types of fees:

- (a) A request fee, which will be a standard fee; and
- (b) An access fee, which must be calculated by taking into account reproduction costs, search and preparation time and cost, as well as postal costs.

A requester who seeks access to a record containing personal information about the requester is not required to pay the request fee. Every other requester must pay the required requested fee.

The information officer must notify the requester by notice, requiring the requester to pay the
prescribed request fee and deposit (if any) before further processing the request.

- The requester may lodge an internal appeal, where appropriate, or an application to the Court against the tender or payment of a fee.
- After the information officer has made a decision on the request the requester must be notified
 of such a decision in a way in which the requester wanted to be notified in.
- If the request is granted then a further access fee must be paid for the reproduction and for the search and preparation for any time required in excess of the stipulated hours to search and prepare the record for disclosure.
- Access to a record will be withheld until all the applicable fees have been paid.

Any member of the public may gain access to the services and records of the Department by contacting any of the Department of **COGTA**. The addresses, telephone numbers and contact personnel are as stated above.

8. ARRANGEMENTS ALLOWING INVOLVEMENT IN THE FORMULATION OF POLICY & PERFORMANCE OF FUNCTIONS

The Department of **COGTA** maintains a high level of public engagement and interaction with stakeholders through inviting comments on proposed legislation and notices published in the Provincial Gazette, and workshops.

9. REMEDIES WHERE REQUESTS FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION ARE REFUSED

9.1 Refusal of request

The main grounds for the Department of **COGTA** to refuse a request for information relates to the:

- Mandatory protection of the privacy of a third party who is a natural person, which involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information of that natural person;
- Mandatory protection of the commercial information of a third party, if the record contains:
- · Trade secrets of that third party:
- Financial, commercial, specific or technical information which disclosure could likely cause harm to the financial or commercial interests of that third party;
- Information disclosed in confidence by a third party to the Department of COGTA, if the
 disclosure could put a third part at the Department of COGTA at a disadvantage in
 negotiations or commercial competition.
- (3) Mandatory protection of confidential information of third parties if it is protected in terms of any agreement:
- (4) Mandatory protection of the safety of individuals and the protection of property;
- (5) Mandatory protection of records which would be regarded as privileged in legal proceedings;

- (6) Operations of Department of COGTA;
- (7) The commercial activities of the Department of **COGTA**, which may include:
 - Trade secrets of the Department of COGTA;
 - Financial, commercial, scientific or technical information which disclosure could likely cause harm to the financial or commercial interests of the Department of COGTA;
 - Information which, if disclosed could put the Department of COGTA at a disadvantage in negotiations or commercial competition;
 - A computer programme which is owned by the Department of COGTA, and which is protected by copyright;
- (8) The research information of the Department of COGTA or a third party, if its disclosure would disclose the identity of the Department of COGTA, the researcher or the subject matter of the research and would place the research at a serious disadvantage.

Requests for information that are clearly frivolous or vexatious, or which involve an unreasonable diversion of resources shall be refused.

9.2 Appeal

- A requester may lodge an internal appeal against a decision of the Information Officer of the Department of COGTA —
 - (a) to refuse a request for access; or
 - (b) taken in terms of section 22, 26(1) or 29(3), in relation to that requester, with the relevant authority.
- (2) A third party may lodge an internal appeal against a decision of the Information Officer of the Department of **COGTA** to grant a request for access.

9.3 Manner of appeal and appeal fees

An internal appeal must be lodged in the prescribed form:

- · Within 60 days;
- If notice to a third party is required, within 30 days notice is given to the appellant of the decision appealed against;
- It must be delivered or sent to the Information Officer of the Department of COGTA at his or her addresses, or fax number;
- It must identify the subject of the internal appeal and state the reasons for the internal appeal and may include any other relevant information known to the appellant,

- If, in addition to a written reply, the appellant wishes to be informed of the decision on the internal appeal in any other manner, must state that manner and provide the necessary particulars to be so informed;
- If applicable, must be accompanied by the prescribed appeal fee, and must specify a postal address or fax number.

If an appeal is lodged after the expiry of the period referred to, the MEC must, upon good cause shown, allow the late lodging of the appeal.

If the MEC disallows the late lodging of the appeal, he or she must give notice of that decision to the person who lodged the appeal.

A requester lodging an appeal against the refusal of his or her request for access must pay the prescribed appeal fee (if any).

If the prescribed appeal fee is payable in respect of an appeal, the decision on the appeal may be deferred until the fee is paid.

As soon as reasonably possible, but in any event within ten (10) working days after receipt of an appeal, the Information Officer of the Department of **COGTA** must submit to the MEC:

- the appeal together with his or her reasons for the decision concerned; and
- if the appeal is against the refusal or granting of a request for access, the name, postal
 address, phone and fax number and electronic mail address, whichever is available, of any
 third party that must be notified of the request.

10. UPDATING AND AVAILABILITY OF THE MANUAL

The Department of **COGTA** undertakes to update and publish its Manual referred to in Section 14(1), at intervals of not more than a year.

Section 14(1) of the Act, read with Regulation No. R. 187 of 15 February 2002 prescribes in section 4(1) that the manual of a public body must be made available in the following manner:

- · A copy will be made available to the South African Human Rights Commission,
- The Manual will be published in the Provincial Gazette, which will be finalised by the Government Printer,
- In addition to this the Department of COGTA's Manual will be accessible through the Department of COGTA's website on http://cgta.mpg.gov.za.

Annexure A

FORM A

REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO RECORD OF PUBLIC BODY

(Section 18(1) of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000

(Act No. 2 of 2000)

[Regulation 6]

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE

	information (pl	officer	surname of on	information (date)
Request fee (if any):	R			
Deposit (if any):	R			
Access fee:	R			
	Signature of inform	nation officer/deputy In	formation Offic	cer
A Particulars of pub The Information Office	lic body er/Deputy Information Office	r:		
B. Particulars of	f person requesting access	s to the record		
(a) The particulars of	the person who requests acc	cess to the record mus	t be given belo	DW.
(b) The address and/o	or fax number in the Republ	ic to which the informa	ntion is to be s	ent, must be
(c) Proof of the capac	ity in which the request is ma	ade, if applicable, must	be attached.	
Full names and surna	me:			
Identity number:				
Postal address:				
Fax number:				
Telephone number: _				
E-mail address:				

Capac	ity in	which	request	is	made,	when	made	e on	behalf	of ar	other	person:
C.	Partic	culars of	person o	n wł	nose bet	nalf requ	ıest is	made				
This so		must be	completed		ILY if a	•				de on be	ehalf of	another
Full na	ımes a	nd surna	me:									,
Identity	y numl	oer:										
D.	Partic	culars of	record									
			lars of the n to you, to						d, includ	ding the I	eferen	ce
form.	•	•	ace is inad sign all the	•	. •		inue or	n a sep	parate fo	olio and	attach	it to this
						1011031						
1. record		scription	of		record	or		relevan	t	part ———	of	the —
2. Refe	erence	number.	if available	ə:						*	-	
			ars of recor									
			us or recor	u				-				
Ε.	Fees					Ma.						
			ss to a reco ssed only a						persona	d informa	ation ab	out
(b) Yo	u will t	oe notified	of the am	oun	t required	d to be p	aid as	the req	uest fee).		
(c) The	fee p	ayable for	access to	a re	ecord dep	pends or	the fo	rm in w	hich ac	cess is re	equired	and the
reason	able ti	me requir	ed to sear	ch fo	or and pro	epare a	record.					
(d) If yo	ou qua	lify for ex	emption of	f the	paymen	t of any	fee, ple	ase sta	te the r	eason fo	r exem	ption.
Reason fees:			for		exemption			rom		paymer	nt	of
												<u></u>

If you are prevented by a disability to read, view or listen to the record in the form of access

F. Form of access to record

provided for in 1 to 4 below, sta	ite your disability ar	nd indicate in w	hich form the r	ecord is required	
<u>Disability:</u>		Form in which record is required:			
Mark the appropriate box with a	an X.				
NOTES:					
(a) Compliance with your requirements in which the record is available.		e specified for	m may depend	on the form	
(b) Access in the form requeste you will be informed if access w			nstances. In su	ch a case	
(c) The fee payable for access which access is requested.	to the record, if any	, will be detern	nined partly by	the form in	
1. If the record is in written or	printed form:				
copy of record*	inspection of re	cord			
2. If record consists of visual im (this includes photographs, slidetc:		s, computer-ge	enerated image	es, sketches,	
view the images	copy of the ima	ges*	transcriptio	n of the	
3. If record consists of recorded	d words or informati	on which can b	e reproduced i	n sound:	
listen to the soundtrack(audio cassette)	transcription of (written or print				
4. If record is held on computer	or in an electronic	or machine-rea	adable form:		
printed copy of		ppy of	copy in cor		
record'	information de	rived from	readable fo		
*If you requested a copy or transcription to be post		d (above), do y		mpact disc) YES NO	
Postage is payable.					
Note that if the record is not average the language in which the record		age you prefer	, access may b	e granted in	
In which language would you p	refer the record?				

G. Notice of decision regard	ding request for access
---------------------------------------	-------------------------

manner, please specify the manner and provide the necessary particulars to enable compliance with your request.	е
How would you prefer to be informed of the decision regarding your request for acc record?	ess to the
Signed atday of	I

SIGNATURE OF REQUESTER OR PERSON ON WHOSE BEHALF THE REQUEST IS MADE

المهرماهم ببيات ما وسيعده الدا

Annexure B

FORM B

NOTICE OF INTERNAL APPEAL

(Section 75 of the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2000 (Act No. 2 of 2000))
[Regulation 8]

STATE YOUR	REFERENCE

A. Particulars of public body

The Information Officer/Deputy Information Officer:

B.	Dawiessiese	of requester/third	na manda a saala mili		Internal cases
n.	Particinars	or renuesier/intro	DALLA WULD	innaes ine	iniernai annes

(a) The particulars of the person who lodge the internal appeal must be given below.
(b) Proof of the capacity in which appeal is lodged, if applicable, must be attached.
(c) If the appellant is a third person and not the person who originally requested the information,the particulars of the requester must be given at C below.
Full names and surname:
Identity number:
Postal address:
Fax number:
Telephone number:
E-mail address:
Capacity in which an internal appeal on behalf of another person is lodged:
C. Particulars of requester
This section must be completed ONLY if a third party (other than the requester) lodges the internal appeal.
Full names and surname:
Identity number:

D. The decision against which the internal appeal is lodged

Mark the decision against which the internal appeal is lodged with an X in the appropriate box:

	Refusal of request for access
	Decision regarding fees prescribed in terms of section 22 of the Act
	Decision regarding the extension of the period within which the request must be dealt with in terms of section 26(I) of the Act
	Decision in terms of section 29(3) of the Act to refuse access in the form requested by the requester
	Decision to grant request for access
E.	Grounds for appeal
	provided space is inadequate, please continue on a separate folio and attach it to this form. nust sign all the additional folios.
State t	the grounds on which the internal appeal is based
State a	any other information that may be relevant in considering the appeal:
F.	Notice of decision on appeal
anothe	ill be notified in writing of the decision on your internal appeal. If you wish to be informed in er manner, please specify the manner and provide the necessary particulars to enable lance with your request.
State t	the manner:
Particu	ulars of manner:
	d at 20

SIGNATURE OF APPELLANT

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE:
OFFICIAL RECORD OF INTERNAL APPEAL
Appeal received on:
(date) by (state rank, name and surname of information officer/deputy information officer).
Appeal accompanied by the reasons for the information officer's/deputy information officer's decision and, where applicable, the particulars of any third party to whom or which the record relates, submitted by the information officer/deputy information officer on (date) to the relevant authority.
OUTCOME OF APPEAL:
DECISION OF INFORMATION OFFICER/DEPUTY INFORMATION OFFICER CONFIRMED/NEW DECISION SUBSTITUTED
NEW DECISION:
DATE RELEVANT AUTHORITY RECEIVED BY THE INFORMATION OFFICER/DEPUTY INFORMATION OFFICER FROM THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY ON (date):

Annexure C

FEES IN RESPECT OF PUBLIC BODIES

1.	The fee for a copy of the manual as contemplated in regulation 5(c) is R0, 60 for
	every photocopy of an A4-size page or part thereof.

	every	pnotocopy of an A4-size page or part thereof.		
2.	The fees for reproduction referred to in regulation 7(1) are as follows:			
	(a) For every photocopy of an A4-size page or part thereof			
	(b) For every printed copy of an A4-size page or part thereof held on a computer or in electronic or machine-readable form			
	(c) For a copy in a computer-readable form on -			
		(i) memory stick/stiffy disc	5,00	
		(ii) compact disc	40,00	
	(d)	(i) For a transcription of visual images, for an A4-size page or part thereof	22,00	
		(ii) For a copy of visual images	60,00	
	(e)	(i) For a transcription of an audio record, for an A4-size page or part thereof	12,00	
		(ii) For a copy of an audio record	17,00	
3.	The request fee payable by every requester, other than a personal requester, referred to in regulation 7(2) is R35,00.			
4.		ccess fees payable by a requester referred to in regulation 7(3) follows:		
		r every photocopy of an A4-size page or part thereof	R 0,60	
	(b) For every printed copy of an A4-size page or part thereof held on a computer or in electronic or machine- readable form			
	(c) For a copy in a computer-readable form on -			
		(i) memory stick/stiffy disc	5,00	
		(ii) compact disc	40,00	
	(d)	(i) For a transcription of visual images, for an A4-size page or part thereof	22,00	
		•		

(ii) For a copy of visual images

60,00

(e) (i) For a transcription of an audio record, for an A4-size page or part thereof

12,00

(ii) For a copy of an audio record

17,00

- (f) To search for and prepare the record for disclosure R15,00 for each hour or part of hour, excluding the first hour, reasonably required for such search and preparation.
- (2) For purposes of section 22(2) of the Act, the following applies:
 - (a) Six hours as the hours to be exceeded before a deposit is payable; and
 - (b) one third of the access fee is payable as a deposit by the requester.
- (3) The actual postage is payable when a copy of a record must be posted to a requester.

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