



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Statement by Hon. Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of Information and
Communication Technology

at the Government Communications Officers Training

C'Et Si Bon, otjiwarongo on 13 March 2023

Dr. Audrin Mathe, MICT Executive Director

Ms. Menesia Muinjo, NBC Chief of News and Programming

Mr. Christof Maletsky, New Era Publications Corporation CEO

NAMPA Representative

NATCOM Representative

Management and Staff of the Directorate Print Media Affairs

Communications Officers, Information Officers and Public Relations Officers from
OMAs, Regional Councils and Local Authorities.

Members of the media

A very good morning to you all!

I'm very happy to see so many of you here at this training workshop which aims to equip Government communications officers as gatekeepers in the implementation of the Access to Information legislation which has recently been signed into law by his Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia. This is an indication that you are very committed and ready to be prepared for the implementation of this important piece of legislation.

The enactment of the *Access to Information Act* is a milestone in the government's commitment towards enhanced democracy and transparency in information management and dissemination. Kosovo academics, Jashari and Pepaj surmise in their publication titled *The role of the principle of transparency and accountability in public administration* that

The principle of transparency has a direct impact on the accountability of administration toward the citizens, while citizens are able to get all the information regarding the work of public administration and also are allowed to get involved in the process of decision-making.¹

The learned academics emphasise that transparency is a prerequisite for efficiency in public administration, public trust and confidence. You are, therefore, urged to uphold the ethos of transparency in information dissemination as envisaged in the Act and demonstrate committed to good service not only within your respective offices, but to a greater part of our society.

Overall, the *Access to Information Act* seeks to advance transparency and accountability and to guarantee our citizens the right freedom of information and access with the view to make informed decisions about their lives and livelihood.

In this regard, I would like to re-iterate that the Government of the Republic of Namibia remains committed to press freedom and the right of our citizens to access information held either by public or private bodies, provided it is done within the confines of the law, more importantly the Namibian Constitution.

¹ Jashari M. and Pepaj I., 2018, The Role of the principle of transparency and accountability in public administration, in *Acta Universitatis Danubius*, Vol. 10, no. 1, pp 60 – 69.

Now, as we prepare for the commencement of the implementation of this law, MICT deemed it necessary to organise this platform to allow government communications officers to interact and interrogate the intricacy that comes with the implementation of this law.

Therefore, it is important that during the next five days you are required to pay undivided attention to this assignment and ensure that the efforts that the Ministry has put forth is not gone in vain.

With this few remarks, I declare this training programme as officially opened.

I thank you!