

NAMIBIA

TRANSPARENCY ASSESSMENT

2020

FACT SHEET

ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN NAMIBIA – OVERVIEW

This study shows that public officials and citizens need to be educated on the importance of access to information in Namibia. Most public organisations surveyed have a strong online presence which allows them to communicate and share information with the public. However, many public relations officers seem to lack the capacity to distinguish between private and public information, and end up depriving citizens of their right to information.



The Access to Information Bill has finally been tabled in Parliament after years of lobbying the Namibian government.



Many public organisations were secretive, using the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to not provide information.



The Whistleblower Protection and Witness Protections Acts of 2017 remain non-operational despite a clear need for such legislation.

Since 2009, the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) has evaluated the level of openness of government and public institutions in its annual Transparency Assessment. Carried out by MISA Chapters together with local researchers, the study seeks to establish the ease or difficulty with which citizens can access public information.

The study assesses whether public institutions proactively make relevant information available via an online presence in the form of a website or social media accounts. It further evaluates to what degree information is made available to citizens upon request.

Every year, on 28 September, MISA joins the international community in commemorating the International Day for Universal Access to Information.

MISA marks the occasion by:



The regional launch of the MISA Transparency Assessment



Hosting National Golden Key and Golden Padlock Awards Ceremonies

NAMIBIA ASSESSMENT RESULTS – OVERVIEW

AWARD WINNERS



The 2020 Golden Padlock Award recipient, for not yet meeting recommended standards for the disclosure of public information, is the National Youth Council of Namibia.

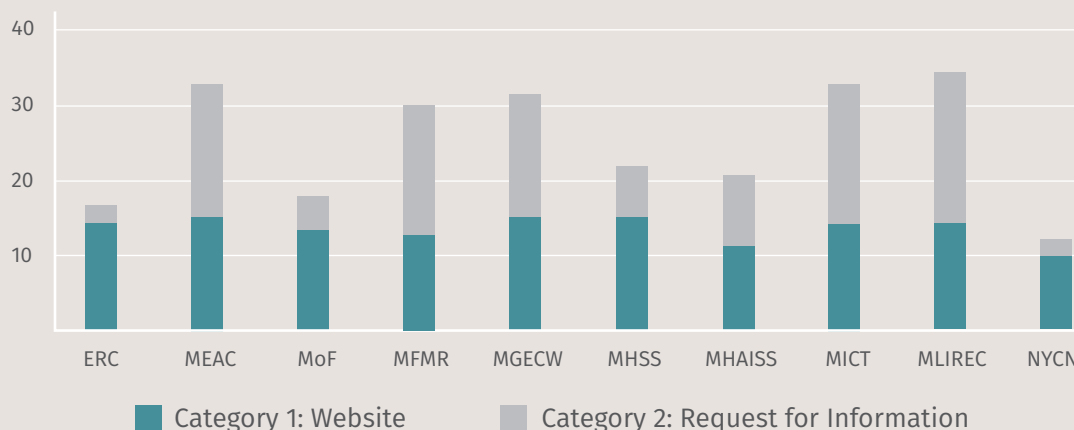


The 2020 Golden Key Award recipient, in acknowledgment of the organisation’s efforts to disclose information to the public, is the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation.

ORGANISATIONS ASSESSED

1. Erongo Regional Council (ERC)
2. Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MEAC)
3. Ministry of Finance (MoF)
4. Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)
5. Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare
6. Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS)
7. Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration Safety and Security (MHAISS)
8. Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT)
9. Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation (MLIREC)
10. National Youth Council of Namibia (NYCN)

ANALYSIS OF INSTITUTIONS



The total number of points allocated to categories 1 and 2 is 20 points each.

Category 1: Website Analysis

- 0 – 6 points: No or very limited website
- 7 – 13 points: Average website
- 14 – 20 points: Transparent website

Category 2: Requests for Information

- 0 – 6 points: Denied access or high level of secrecy
- 7 – 13 points: Average level of openness
- 14 – 20 points: Displayed openness