



Action Statement

Plaudits to MICT/Government for now decisively moving on ATI

The Access to Information in Namibia (ACTION) Coalition commends the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) for earnestly initiating the process of drafting both an access to information (ATI) law and updating the information policy for Namibia.

We say this against the backdrop of MICT authorities having released for consultation and discussion both a draft ATI working document and a draft of the revised National Information Policy at the end of May, beginning of June 2016.

Access to information is an issue which has long featured on the legislative and policy-making agenda, but which has not been brought to a conclusive head up until present. It is the sincere hope of the ACTION Coalition that the current attempt to formalise an ATI dispensation and to install a revised information policy environment will lead to the establishment of a law and policy landscape that exemplifies the principled spirit of respect for human rights and freedoms as articulated in the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia.

At the same time, Namibia would live up to and honour its obligations under such auspicious international, continental and regional instruments as the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights (ICCPR), the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the SADC Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport. And we draw attention to the fact that ATI has been positioned as a critical ingredient in the attainment of the objectives of both the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Namibian government's Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP).

MICT/Government should also be lauded for inviting and including civil society and the media from the earliest in the process of developing and drafting both the ATI Bill and the new information policy. The ACTION Coalition will certainly play its part and avail all its expertise to MICT and Government's legal drafters to ensure that Namibia's eventual ATI law and policy landscape will be one to be admired and emulated, not just on the African continent, but everywhere else as well.

We look forward to moving ahead with this process in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect and consideration.

08 June 2016
WINDHOEK

ABOUT THE ACTION COALITION

The ACTION Coalition is an umbrella under which a range of activists and civil society and media organisations are gathered in the furtherance of the cause of access/right to information and freedom of expression. The ACTION Coalition has been in existence since 2012 and has consistently engaged both the Namibian Government and its development partners on the issue of ATI over the years.

ACTION Coalition Members



Institute for Public Policy Research

CATS

Citizens for an Accountable & Transparent Society