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In reply quote

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Human Rights Commission

Head Office

26th June, 2026

PRESS RELEASE For Immediate Release

EXPIRATION OF DEADLINE FOR PROGRESSIVE COMPLIANCE WITH THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT, No. 24 of 2023

The Human Rights Commission wishes to remind both public and private information holders that pursuant to section 41 of the Access to Information (ATI) Act, No. 24 of 2023, the two-year progressive compliance period, which commenced on 25th June 2024, ended yesterday, 25th June 2026.

This transition marks the commencement of full implementation of the ATI Act. Accordingly, all information holders are required to fully comply with the provisions of the ATI Act by meeting their statutory obligations, which include keeping, organising and maintaining records in a manner that facilitates access to information; proactively disclosing information in their possession; and appointing an information officer to receive and process requests for information.

Since 2023, the Commission has been supporting the effective implementation of the ATI Act by, amongst other steps, issuing Access to Information Guidelines, mapping of information holders and engaging identified information holders to support compliance. While some institutions have appointed information officers and initiated steps towards compliance, others are yet to fully align their internal processes with the requirements of the ATI Act.

Additional measures undertaken with a view to strengthening the Commission's discharge of its ATI mandate include the establishment of a dedicated registry at its Headquarters for handling appeals, as well as securing court infrastructure for the hearing and determination of appeals.

The Commission remains committed to supporting and monitoring implementation of the ATI Act and stands ready to execute its full oversight and enforcement mandate in order to safeguard every person's constitutional right of access to information. In this vein, the Commission reiterates its call for all information holders to ensure immediate and full compliance with the provisions of the ATI Act.

To support effective compliance, information holders are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the provisions of the ATI Act, which is freely accessible on both the National Assembly website (www.parliament.gov.zm) and the Human Rights Commission website (www.hrc.org.zm). Soft copies of the Regulations and Guidelines are also available on the Commission's website. The Commission remains available to provide further guidance relating to the implementation of the ATI Act. For any queries, stakeholders are encouraged to use the Commission tollfree line 8181.

(Original Signed)

Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo
CHAIRPERSON
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION