



INFORMATION REGULATOR (SOUTH AFRICA)

*Ensuring protection of your personal information
and effective access to information*

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MEDIA STATEMENT

INFORMATION REGULATOR HOSTS DELEGATES OF THE AFRICAN NETWORK OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS

23 MAY 2024

On 23 to 24 May 2024, the Information Regulator (IR) will be hosting delegates from the African Network of Information Commissions (ANIC) in Johannesburg. The General Assembly of ANIC aims to conduct a peer learning session among African information commissioners and oversight authorities and to elect its governance structure.

ANIC comprises of Information Commissioners, Ombudsmen, and other Regulatory Authorities, including Transparency Councils and Boards who are responsible for protecting, promoting and ensuring the respect of the right of access to information within their respective jurisdictions. The purpose of the Network is to establish a formal forum for dialogue, cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experience among its members.

An important development for ANIC took place during the 13th International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) held in Puebla (Mexico) in June 2022. ANIC conducted a side event for its regional meeting chaired by the interim chair (Information Regulator of South Africa). During this event, ANIC approved its charter and held its 1st elective conference. By July 2022 ANIC already had 14 members: Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Togo, and Tunisia.

The Chairperson of the IR and ANIC, Adv. Pansy Tlakula said that the Annual General Meeting is an essential platform for the countries to come together, exchange ideas, and chart the course for the future of information access in Africa. "It's an opportunity to look back on the achievements of the past year and to set ambitious goals for the year ahead. I am immensely proud of what ANIC has accomplished over the last two years. Our network has been instrumental in advancing the right to information across the African continent. As we gather for the AGM, we have an opportunity to build on our achievements and address the challenges that lie ahead. We must

continue to advocate for the full implementation of right to information laws, address gaps in access, and promote digital inclusion,” she said.

Over the years ANIC has achieved several milestones such as promoting the Right to Information Laws in various African countries and playing a crucial role in building the capacity of information commissions and civil society organisations by providing training, sharing best practices, and fostering collaboration. Through advocacy, capacity building, and technical assistance, ANIC has supported member countries in enacting and implementing robust access to information legislation and has also been at the forefront of advocating transparency and accountability in governance.

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**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE INFORMATION REGULATOR OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE
AFRICAN NETWORK OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS.**