



**INFORMATION  
REGULATOR  
(SOUTH AFRICA)**  
*Ensuring protection of your personal information  
and effective access to information*

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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **LIBERTY HOLDINGS LTD DATA BREACH**

The Information Regulator (Regulator) has noted with concern various media reports regarding a material data breach at Liberty Holdings Ltd. According to these various media reports hackers gained unauthorised access to the information technology infrastructure of Liberty Holdings.

Today the Regulator wrote to the Chief Executive Officer of Liberty Holdings, Mr. David Munro to establish the circumstance relating to the data breach and to request an urgent meeting with him. In the letter, the Regulator has requested the following information:

1. how the breach occurred;
2. the extent and materiality of the data breach;
3. interim measures put in place by Liberty Holdings Ltd. to prevent further compromise;
4. security measure that Liberty Holdings Ltd has put in place to prevent a recurrence of such a breach; and
5. measures taken by Liberty Holdings to inform affected data subjects of the breach to allow these data subjects to take proactive measures against potential consequences of the compromise.

Although not all the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act have come into effect, the Regulator has consistently encouraged private and public bodies to proactively comply with the Act, in particular section 19 which requires responsible parties to:

1. Put in place measures to secure the integrity and confidentiality of personal information in its possession or under its control by taking appropriate, reasonable technical and organisational measures to prevent:–
  - 1.1 either loss of, damage to or unauthorised destruction of personal information or
  - 1.2 unlawful access to or processing of personal information.
2. Ensure that the aforementioned is achieved by taking reasonable measures to: –
  - 2.1 identify all reasonably foreseeable internal and external risks to personal information in its possession or under its controls;
  - 2.2 establish and maintain appropriate safeguards against the risks identified;
  - 2.3 regularly verify that its safeguards are effectively implemented; and
  - 2.4 ensure that safeguards are continually updated in response to new risks or deficiencies in previously implemented safeguards.
3. Have due regard to generally accepted information security practices and procedures which may apply to it specifically and generally or be required in terms of specific industry or professional rules and standards.

South Africa has experienced a disturbingly high number of material data breaches in the past few months. In addition to Liberty Holdings, there have been material data

breaches at Master Deeds, Facebook and ViewFine. Without a fully functional Information Regulator, these breaches will continue to occur without sanctions provided for in POPIA. These data breaches underscore the urgent establishment of the Regulator. It is for this reason that the Information Regulator requests the powers that be to assist it in fast tracking its operationalization.

ISSUED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INFORMATION REGULATOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Tlakula".

ADVOCATE PANSY TLAKULA

18 JUNE 2018

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