



**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
THE INFORMATION REGULATOR (SA)**

MEDIA STATEMENT

2 December 2016

INFORMATION REGULATOR HOLDS ITS INAUGURAL MEETING

As part of the implementation of the Protection of Personal Information Act (PPI Act), 2013, the members of the Information Regulator have been appointed by the President on recommendation of the National Assembly, with effect from 1 December 2016 for a period of five years. Section 39 of the Act establishes the Regulator as an independent juristic person which is subject only to the Constitution and the law and which is accountable to the National Assembly.

In line with the Act, President Zuma, on the recommendation of the National Assembly, appointed the following persons as Chairperson and members of the Regulator with effect from 1 December 2016, for a period of five years:

- Adv Pansy Tlakula (Chairperson);
- Adv Lebogang Stroom Nzama (full-time);
- Adv Collen Weapond (full-time);
- Prof Tana Pistorius (part-time); and
- Mr Sizwe Lindelo Snail ka Mtuze (part-time).

The Information Regulator held its inaugural meeting on 1 December 2016 at Salu Building in Pretoria to commence with their duties and functions. The responsibilities were allocated in terms of section 40 of the PPI Act as follows:

Adv Lebogang Stroom-Nzama was designated as a full time member responsible for the Promotion of Access to Information Act of 2000; and
Adv Collen Weapond was designated as a full time member responsible for the Protection of Personal Information Act.

The work of the Regulator will give effect to the right to privacy as enshrined in the Constitution by introducing measures to ensure that personal information is processed

legally by responsible parties. The Regulator is, among others, empowered to monitor and enforce compliance by public and private bodies with the provisions of the PPI Act and the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000. The Regulator is also responsible for issuing codes of conduct for different sectors and to make guidelines to assist bodies with the development and application of codes of conduct.

The process of developing the codes of conduct and guidelines will take into consideration eight conditions for the lawful processing of personal information. The eight core conditions are accountability, processing limitation, purpose specification, further processing limitation, information quality, openness, security safeguards and data subject participation. These conditions are in line with internationally accepted information protection principles.

The appointment of the Regular is a significant step in the process of promoting access to information as well as protection of personal information. Section 1 (definitions), Part A of Chapter 5 (establishment of the Information Regulator) and sections 112 and 113 (Regulations and procedure for making Regulations, respectively) of the PPI Act became operational on 11 April 2014.

The reason why only these provisions became operational is that the remaining provisions of the Act, namely Chapters 1 to 4 and 6 to 12, can only be implemented once the Regulator has been established and has reached a stage of operational readiness. The Regulator will play a crucial role in monitoring compliance by responsible parties with the provisions of the PPI Act as well as PAIA Act. It will handle complaints by data subjects, amongst other things, to be implemented after the establishment of a fully functional Office of the Information Regulator.

Issued by the Chairperson of the Information Regulator Advocate Tlakula

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