

ESWATINI

TRANSPARENCY ASSESSMENT

2018
FACT SHEET



ACCESS TO INFORMATION (ATI) IN ESWATINI – OVERVIEW

As usual, when researchers requested information for this study, the Principal Secretaries authorised to release information hid behind the excuse of being too busy with the elections to respond to requests. Withholding public information from information-seekers by government and public institutions appears to be the rule rather than the exception in Eswatini.



The Public Service Act 2018 denies emaSwati their constitutional right to access information held by government.



Despite years of advocacy, there was no evidence of any political will to promulgate the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Bill of 2007 before the dissolution of Parliament in June 2018.



2018 saw government making strides in e-governance by launching a revamped government website aimed at making informative and effective services easily available to the public.



Since 2009, the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) has evaluated the level of openness of government and public institutions in its annual Transparency Assessment. Carried out by MISA Chapters alongside local researchers, the study seeks to establish the ease or difficulty with which citizens can access public information.

The study assesses whether public institutions proactively make relevant information available via an online presence in the form of a website or social media accounts. It further evaluates to what degree information is made available to citizens upon request.

Every year, on 28 September, MISA joins the international community in commemorating the International Day for Universal Access to Information.

MISA marks the occasion through:



The regional launch of the MISA Transparency Assessment



Hosting national Golden Key and Golden Padlock Awards Ceremonies

ESWATINI ASSESSMENT RESULTS - OVERVIEW

INSTITUTIONS ASSESSED

1. Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC)
2. Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
3. Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy (MNRE)
4. Ministry of Public Service (MPS)
5. Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development (MTAD)
6. Municipal Council of Mbabane (MCM)
7. National Maize Corporation (NMC)
8. Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF)

AWARDS RECIPIENTS

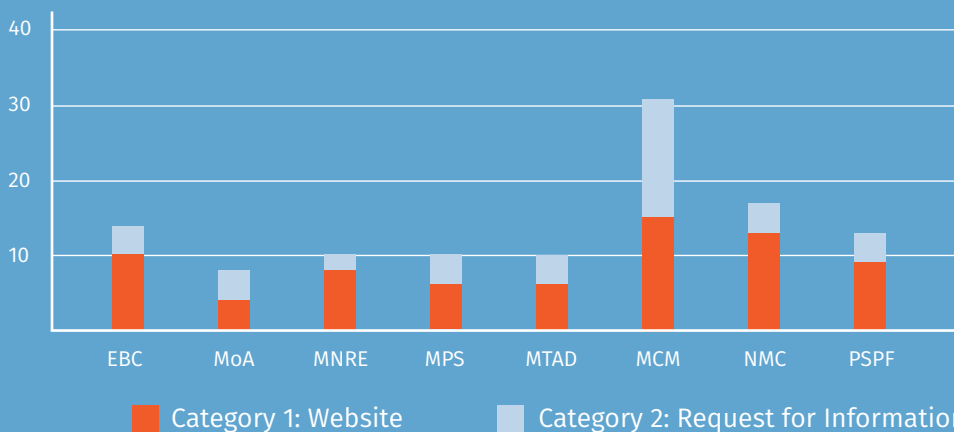


The recipient of the 2018 Golden Key Award, in acknowledgement of the institution's efforts to disclose information to the public, is the **Municipal Council of Mbabane**.



The recipient of the 2018 Golden Padlock Award, as an institution not yet meeting recommended standards for the disclosure of public information, is the **Ministry of Agriculture**.

ANALYSIS OF INSTITUTIONS



The maximum number of points allocated to categories 1 and 2 is 20 points each.

Category 1 (C1): Website Analysis

- 0 – 6 points: No or very limited website
- 7 – 13 points: Average website
- 14 – 20 points: Transparent website

Category 2 (C2): Requests for Information

- 0 – 6 points: Denied access or high level of secrecy
- 7 – 13 points: Average level of openness
- 14 – 20 points: Displayed openness