



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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INTRODUCTION

The NCC was established in 1980 governed by the NCC Act which was a product of the Children's Act 1982. Throughout the years, the act went through various changes which eventually redefined the organization's roles and functions. The NCC is currently committed to promote professional and effective support and interventions for the protection and safety of children in Seychelles. The team is made up of dedicated professionals with years of experience in child related issues. The organization aims to represent the voice of the child in decision making at national level. The organization's priority is to empower children and parents overcome barriers that are preventing them from getting the most out of life. As from 2018 it was also given the responsibility to oversee the running of the Presidents Village. As of October 2018 just as with every public body, the NCC had to adhere to the new Access to Information Act and Mr. Reuben Lavigne was appointed as the Information Officer.

In accordance with section 54 of the Access to Information Act 2018, the National Council for Children wishes to fulfil its obligation by presenting to the Information Commission its report related to the activities taken place under the provisions of the act.

MISSION VISION AND MANDATE OF THE ORGANISATION

Our Vision is to ensure all the children of Seychelles are given the best start in life to be safe, healthy, happy and resilient and have access to a good education.

Our Mission is to put children at the heart of what we do

Our Core Values are integrity, respect, responsibility, servant leadership and bringing our best to anything that we do

Our Aim is to deliver services and projects that empower children and their families.

Our Standards is to have mechanisms in place that will ensure consistency in our practice and achieve good outcomes for children and their families.

NCC's key strategic priorities are:

1. To advocate and lobby for the rights, protection and best interests of the child.
2. To ensure that every child feels safe and protected at all times.
3. To provide diverse, quality and innovative services
4. Celebrate the achievements and talents of our children
5. Give children a voice
6. Create a happy and safe children care home
7. Improve the performance management system

Functions of NCC as per the National Council Act

NCC is governed by the **National Council Children's Act** (revised 1991 and amended on 12 October 1999). Its **core functions** amended in 1999 and listed in **Chapter 137** are to:

- **Advocate** and **protect** the interests of children
- **Promote** the well-being of children and families
- **Collaborate** with and support providers of care and assistance to children in need
- **Advise and support** agencies that administer and provide facilities for the welfare of children
- **Collaborate** with other persons and public and private organisations, both nationally and internationally, in furtherance of the welfare of children
- **Initiate reforms** in legislation, policies and practices pertaining to children
- **Advise the Government** on all matters relating to children and families
- **Raise greater awareness** on issues relating to children
- **Promote and provide training** for all persons involved with children on a professional basis
- Work for the **prevention of all forms of child abuse**
- **Promote and develop treatment programmes** for children and families
- **Undertake** such other activities in relation to the care and well-being of children as may be provided by any written law
- **Carry out research** and other activities in furtherance of the aforementioned functions
- **Promote** the implementation of the **United Nations Convention Rights of the Child** and
- **Raise funds** in Seychelles or elsewhere to enable it to carry out the aforementioned functions

ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS

SR No	ATI ACT REQUIREMENTS	No
1)	The total number of ATI requests for access received;	1
2)	<u>TYPE OF INFORMATION</u>	
	The number of requests for personal information	0
	The number of request for public domain information	1
	The number of request for third party information	0
	The number of request for commercial and confidential Information	0
	The number of request for law enforcement information	0
	The number of request for privileged documents	0
	The number of request for protection of life and safety of an individual information	0
	The number of request for National Security and defence	0
	The number of request for International relations	0
	The number of request for Economic interest of the state	0
	The number of request for Academic or professional examination and recruitment process information	0
	The number of request for proposal submitted to Cabinet	0
3)	The number of requests for access granted in full;	1
4)	The number of requests for access refuse in full;	0
	The number of requests for access refuse in part;	0
5)	The number of times each provision of Part III (<i>EXEMPTIONS</i>) was relied on to refuse access in full;	0
	The number of times each provision of Part III (<i>EXEMPTIONS</i>) was relied on to refuse access in part;	0

6)	The number of cases in which the periods stipulated in section 11 were extended in terms of section 12;	0
7)	The number of review applications lodged with the head of the information holder;	0
8)	The number of reviews lodged on the ground that a request for access was regarded as having been refused in terms of section 14;	0
9)	The number of cases in which, as a result of a review, access was given to information;	0
10)	The number of request transferred to another Public Body	0
11)	The number of request abandoned after request	0
12)	The number of request but no records exist	0

I.	A description of the steps or efforts taken by the head of the body to encourage all officers of that body to comply with the provisions of this Act;
II.	Any facts which indicate an effort by the body to administer and implement the spirit and intention of the Act according to its submitted plan.
	<p>The NCC has maintained its standards and procedures with regards to the storage and management of information. All sections are up to date with their respective procedures to ensure proper records and management of information as prescribed in the act.</p> <p>During the year 2022 the NCC embarked on its new digitalization project which will eventually reduce the number of hard copy documents being stored. This will therefore facilitate the access to information process even further by making access easier and faster. The project is still in its initial phase.</p> <p>The website, which was initially set up in 2021, is currently under maintenance in order to better facilitate the public experience when accessing information. The Information officer has developed a good working relationship with the Communications and Digital Officer. Regular discussions and meetings have resulted in the establishment of a checklist for proactive disclosure. Most of the production and information on the checklist were already on the website but required updating and a few others had to be added for the first time. Further to that, a training on how to better manage the website has been scheduled for early 2023 which will involve the information officer.</p> <p>Proactive disclosure was also achieved through the continuous sharing of leaflets to different partners, newspaper articles and adverts on the media made by the advocacy and communication section of the NCC. In 2022 NCCs appearance on the media to disclose certain information was quite frequent. Different team members both collectively and individually took part in media interviews to either explain their work, a particular topic or events of national importance. These were; 5 radio programs, 2 bonzour sesel episodes and 1 general press conference for festival zanafan.</p> <p>The information officer was also involved directly together with the CEO in the planning of the organization’s annual report 2021-2022 which is expected to be published in 2023. This work is still ongoing.</p> <p>Like in the past the NCC has maintained its visibility on social media through its Facebook page with at least five posts per week.</p> <p>The only personal request made was done through phone call and the requestor was ask to re submit the request through mail. This was adhered to and the information request form</p>

	<p>was utilized by the information officer while the case was allocated with a number. The information was granted within two working days following the date of request.</p> <p>Facts and evidence of the above can be found in the different sources such as ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The NCC website (currently under maintenance) ➤ Digitalization Action plan of the communications and events officer ➤ Information officer’s checklist from website. ➤ Events posted on Facebook page. ➤ Information Officers records of request.
III.	<p>Particulars of any penalties imposed against any person under this Act; YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> (If yes, list down)</p>
IV.	<p>Particulars of any disciplinary action taken against any person under this Act; YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> (If yes, list down)</p>

CHALLENGES

Due to the number of request and the good collaboration with the communication sections as well as the CEO, the different tasks and processes went quite smoothly without any major challenges.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

Despite having only one formal request, the NCC has made great effort to proactively disclose information. The management and other sections have created a suitable environment for the access of information to take place. To conclude, as the information officer of the NCC, I feel that there has been a remarkable improvement with regards to proactive disclosure compared to last year. This is expected to continue during 2023. The lack of public requests made last year signifies that proactive disclosure through the website and other platforms are effective. Nevertheless as the information officer it will be my duty to evaluate this hypothesis through internal research. The training that I will receive in website management will enable me to access and analyse the number and profile of viewer’s accessing the website. Furthermore, discussions with the communication section will help me understand the types and number of viewers on the website. This will facilitate the proving of this hypothesis

