

EXTRACT FROM ESSAY WRITTEN BY JOSANI SCHNEIDER

The objective of the law found at section four of 'The freedom of Information Law, 2007' states the "The objects of this Law are to reinforce and give further effect to certain fundamental principles underlying the system of constitutional democracy namely-

Governmental Accountability;

Transparency; and

Public participation in national decision making, by granting to the public a general right of access to records held by public authorities, subject to exemptions which balance that right against the public interest in exempting from disclosure governmental, commercial or personal information."

The definitions of these words are:

Accountability: "Subject to the obligation to report, justify, or explain something, responsible; answerable.

Transparency: "It is open and frank"

Participation: "To share"

Therefore I think that a) the government is responsible to report, justify, or explain concerns of the public b) the reports and explanations should be clear and to the point c) is the stating that the people have the right to share their opinions with the government.

It is my opinion that this law will be of a great value to us. Our country and our people will be more aware and educated of what is going on around them, evaluate the impact that a situation can have on our society and work from there to improve upon it. As James Madison so appropriately pointed out, knowledge is the power which is needed to govern a democratic country. Freedom of Information is the key to putting the information into the right hands.