



state security

State Security Agency
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Office of the Information Officer


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The South African History Archives
PO Box 31719
Braamfontein
2017

Request Pursuant to the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA), 2000 (Act 2 of 2000): Funds and Expenses of the State Security Agency (SSA) and including that of the Minister

1. Your request for access to a record of a Public Body in terms of Section 19(1) of the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA), 2000 (Act 2 of 2000) which was received by the PAIA Unit on 19 June 2012 on funds and expenses of the SSA and that of the Minister refers.
2. The SSA records on the matters listed in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part D of the request, or any other record relating to the Agency's budget and expenditure are classified and cannot be disclosed. Such records are therefore refused in terms of section 38(b)(ii) of the Act, as disclosure of budgetary information is likely to prejudice methods, systems and operation of the SSA with regard to its mandate. Also the disclosure of such records will impact on national security matters.
3. With regard to your paragraph 2 of part D of the request, please note that the SSA cannot comment on the expenditure of the Minister and such part is being referred to the Minister's office in terms of Section 20 of the PAIA Act.

4. The Security Services Special Account Act, 1969 was enacted to mitigate the risk of disclosing budget information that could reveal intelligence sources and methods that are protected by the intelligence legislation and are specifically excluded for disclosure in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000. Although the SSA budget information and expenditure is not disclosed in Parliament, proper oversight is ensured by the enactment of the Intelligence Service Oversight Act, Act 40 of 1994, thereby establishing the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence (JSCI). Furthermore, in terms of section 22 of the Public Audit Act, Act 25 of 2004, special consideration is provided by the Auditor-General when reporting on the finances of the Intelligence Services in relation to the special account.
5. It needs to be noted that most foreign governments and especially intelligence structures are highly experienced in studying budget and expenditure-related information and, by comparing it with clandestinely obtained information, they are able to acquire detailed knowledge and estimates of how the budget is structured, where intelligence funds are hidden, where and how intelligence funds are transferred and for what purposes. They have the expertise to do cost analysis and determine intelligence programmes. Analysis such as these could disclose to foreign intelligence services the extent of intelligence activities and indicate intelligence collection priorities and resources which would enable such services to frustrate local intelligence collection efforts and counterintelligence activities, thereby negatively impacting on national security. It is therefore international practise by intelligence services to protect appropriation figures and information on expenditure to prevent the identification and compromising of intelligence activities that could be revealed by intelligence spending.
6. Thank you for your attention.



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DT Dlomo
Information Officer
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