

Right to Information

From

Around the World

Issue: 209

July 28, 2020

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Are we observing an RTI downfall?

Countries pioneering in RTI legislation are compromising its practices. North America is undermining key principles of democracy and hindering the information from citizens. During the current health crisis, many state departments have neglected the information requests using COVID-19 as an excuse. European citizens are also raising concerns of malpractices regarding freedom of information. Africa on the other hand, is taking steps towards RTI legislation, but countries with already existing RTI laws are observed as ineffective in providing basic information to inquirers. South Asia is also experiencing the information crisis as most of the state departments are prioritizing other subjects. We need to make sure that we move forward rather than moving backwards. RTI is a vital tool of citizens to practice their rights and perform their duties. Democracy should be celebrated in its true sense and that is only possible when the people, who are part of it, are given their rights.

Canada

[Canadians' right to information should not be compromised](#)

TriCity News

While the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed Ottawa's handling access to information requests, the country's law enforcement agencies and defence department are often unable to meet legislated response requirements....

Malawi

[Minister Kazako to effect Access to Information law](#)

All Africa

Minister of Information Gospel Kadzako says the long-awaited Access to Information (ATI) Act will come into force this year, declaring that the Tonse Alliance government has nothing to hide....

Albania

[Albanian government accused of ignoring freedom of information requests about COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Exit News

The Albanian government and the Ministry of Health have been accused of blocking freedom of information requests relating to the expenditure of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic....

Philippines

[PCOO urges Duterte to certify Freedom of Information bill as urgent](#)

Manila Bulletin

The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) said it requested that the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill to be part of President Duterte's urgent legislative agenda.....

India

[8k RTI applications pending with state info commission](#)

Times of India

Due to non-availability of information commissioners, cases are piling up for disposal

Ghana

[Information Minister commissions RTI secretariat](#)

Modern Ghana

The RTI Secretariat is a Division of the Information Services Department (ISD), which would help the MDAs to process information requested by citizens.....

Gambia

[Cluster members trained on Access to Information](#)

All Africa

The workshop is in line with series of activities scheduled to compliment the process of the development and passage of the Bill. All the necessary COVID19 measures were observed during the training....

India

[Right to Information Act under threat as ten-year old 'Interim' order holds CIC together](#)

The Leaflet

Under the Right to Information Act, 2005, the CIC has the power to directly supply information as an appellate body and can also to take action....

UK

[New tools for freedom of information requests and investigations](#)

E&P

UK-based nonprofit group mySociety has created several tools to help news organisations make Freedom of Information requests and run FOI-based investigations.....