

Complaint No. 106/2025/SIC

Mr. Leslie Steven De Souza,
H. No. E/8, 158 Opposite the Court,
Altinho, Mapusa, Bardez Goa.403507 **Complainant**

V/s

1.First Appellate Authority (FAA),
Chief Officer, Mapusa Municipality,
Mapusa Municipal Council,
Mapusa Bardez-Goa.

2.Public Information Officer (PIO),
Mapusa Municipal Council,
Mapusa Bardez Goa.

.....**Opponents**

Shri. Atmaram R. Barve

State Information Commissioner

Filed on: 18/12/2025

Disposed on: 18/05/2026

ORDER

1. The present order shall dispose off Complaint No. 106/2025/SIC, wherein the cause of action arose out of the Right to Information application dated 19/09/2025 made by the Complainant herein Mr. Leslie D Souza and addressed to the Public Information Officer at Mapusa Municipal Council, Mapusa Bardez Goa.

2.The Complainant herein had sought that the Public Information Officer should furnish information within 48 hours pertaining to a purported illegal construction concerning the Complainants life and liberty.

3.Thereafter, citing the aspect of no response on the part of the Public Information Officer the Complainant herein preferred the First Appeal dated 12/10/2025 before the First Appellate Authority.

4. Thereafter, on the ground of no response from the Public Information Officer as well as the First Appellate Authority the Complainant herein preferred the present Complaint before this Commission under Section 18 of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

5. Notices were issued and the matter came up to be heard from 18/02/2026 onwards.

6. This Commission issued Show Cause Notice dated 24/02/2026 to the Public Information Officer for his continuous absence as well as non-filing of any reply in the present matter with directions to remain present in person along with reply to Show Cause Notice on 08/04/2026.

7. On hearing dated 08/04/2026, the Public Information Officer, Shri. Vishant Naik remained present and volunteered to provide information and orally volunteered to provide information to the Complainant herein before the next date of hearing.

8. This Commission directed the Complainant herein to file reply to ascertain satisfactory furnishing of information.

9. On the present day of hearing the Complainant is present and submitted that the Public Information Officer has not furnished any information as volunteered on the previous date of hearing. In view of the above this Commission is of considered opinion as under:

a- The conduct of the Public Information Officer in this matter is of gross negligence and disregard towards the letter and spirit of the Right to Information Act and the authorities constituted there under.

b- Ample opportunities were given to the Public Information Officer to be heard and also a Show Cause Notice was issued to enable the Public Information Officer to put forth his contentions in this matter.

c- The Public Information Officer has not even bothered to file a reply to the Complaint memo and has also grossly ignored available

remedy and exposing himself to penalty as prescribed under Right to Information Act, 2005.

d-There is also a gross negligence on the part of the First Appellate Authority in so far as not deciding the First Appeal is concerned.

9. In view of the above this Commission disposes the present Complaint proceedings with following orders:

a-The present Complaint is allowed.

b- The Public Information Officer, Shri. Vishant Naik has found to have caused denial of information thereby attracting penalty in terms of Section 20(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 to the tune of Rs. 25,000/-

c- The Drawal and Disbursal authority of the Mapusa Municipal Council is hereby directed to recover the said penalty on or before 15/06/2026 and submit a compliance report on 01/07/2026 through any authorised representative.

d- The Public Information Officer, Shri. Vishant Naik or any other person currently serving as Public Information Officer at the Mapusa Municipal Council is hereby directed to forthwith furnish the information to the Complainant herein in terms of his application dated 19/09/2025 on or before 15/06/2026 by duly inviting the Complainant to the Office of the Public Information Officer and furnish all the desired certified copies and record minutes of entire procedure and upon completion of said procedure the Public Information Officer shall inscribe his signature and also seek acknowledgment from the Complainant herein.

e- Registry to issue Show Cause Notice to Shri. Vishant Naik or the present Public Information Officer at Mapusa Municipal Council as the case may be to ensure strict compliance of directions above failing which separate penalty proceedings shall be initiated accordingly. The concern Public Information Officer shall file a reply

to the Show Cause Notice and also furnish duly certified minutes of proceedings as directed above on completion of directions of this Commission by remaining present in person on 01/07/2026 at 11.00 a.m.

- No order as to cost.
- Parties to be provided authenticated copies of this order separately under each appeal number.
- Aggrieved party if any, may move against this order by way of a Writ Petition as no further Appeal is provided against this order under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Sd/-

(ATMARAM R. BARVE)

State Information Commissioner