

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Ground Floor, "Shrama Shakti Bhavan", Patto Plaza, Panaji.

Complaint No. 59/2006/TCP

Shri C. S. Barreto,
H. No. 206, Mazalvaddo,
Assagao, Bardez - Goa.

..... Complainant.

V/s.

Public Information Officer
Town Planner,
Town & Country Planning Dept.,
North Goa District, Mapusa - Goa.

..... Opponent.

CORAM:

Shri A. Venkataratnam
State Chief Information Commissioner
&
Shri G. G. Kambli
State Information Commissioner

(Per A. Venkataratnam)

Dated: 10/04/2007.

Complainant in person.

Opponent present in person.

ORDER

This is a complaint dated 6/3/2007 stating that the first Appellate Authority order dated 9/1/2007 is not complied with by the Public Information Officer, the Opponent, herein. Briefly, stated the facts are that the request was made by the Complainant on 16/11/2006 to the Opponent asking for certain information. The Public Information Officer rejected the request on 13/12/2006 mainly on 3 grounds that (i) request is not in a prescribed format; (ii) that no processing fess were paid; (iii) no reference number of the case was given. Thereafter, the Complainant approached the first Appellate Authority on 15/12/2006 for issuing directions to the Opponent No. 1 to give the information. The first Appellate Authority has already stated that he directed the Opponent to give the information after collecting application fees.

2. The Opponent and the Complainant were present in person and argued their cases. The Opponent submitted that the information is ready and will be

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furnished to the Complainant. The delay was because of the insufficient details regarding the case for which details are asked by the Complainant. We, therefore, allow the complaint and direct the Public Information Officer to furnish the information immediately and in any case not later than one week from the date of the receipt of this order. The Complainant has asked for action to be initiated against the Opponent. We do not agree with one of the reasons given by him for rejecting the information, namely, that the request is not filed in proper format. There is no format for making the application for information prescribed in the RTI Act or the Rules made thereunder by the Goa Government. We, therefore, warn Mr. James Mathews, Sr. Town Planner and Public Information Officer of Mapusa Town Planning Office to be more careful in future. We are also not inclined to proceed further with this matter with penal action against Opponent No. 1. Parties to be informed.

(A. Venkataratnam)
State Chief Information Commissioner

(G. G. Kambli)
State Information Commissioner