



dpwrt

Department:
Public Works; Roads and Transport
North West Provincial Government
Republic of South Africa

GIFT AND DONATIONS POLICY
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TITLE : GIFT AND DONATIONS POLICY
DEPARTMENT : PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT

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GIFTS AND DONATIONS POLICY

1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1 The DPWRT recognises that in serving the public interest, executing its business and in applying standard norms, employees may be required to accept or receive gifts as a means of gratitude or cultural diplomacy. It is the objective of the department to engage with stakeholders on the principles of quality, service excellence and technical ability and to avoid any impropriety in the acceptance, receiving and giving of gifts.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to:

- To give direction and directive to all employees of DPWRT on matters relating to acceptance and granting of gifts, donations and sponsorships to and by the state
- Provide guidance on the behaviours expected in accordance with the Public Service Commission values;
- Promote transparency and avoid conflict of interest;
- Ensure fairness in the interests of employees and DPWRT;
- Comply with the requirements of the law relating to the prohibition of corruption.
- To ensure proper disclosure of all gifts, donations and sponsorships granted and accepted by the department.

The improper acceptance of gifts and hospitality can lead to accusations of bias and even corruption, potentially leading to investigations and possible corrective action and charges.

- 2.2 It is not feasible that a comprehensive set of rules be drawn up to cover every situation. The situation context must be borne in mind, specifically the relationship between the DPWRT, the organisation concerned and the role of the individual in that relationship. However, improper acceptance of a gift or hospitality will be viewed in a serious light and may, apart from any other consequences, lead to internal disciplinary action.

- 2.3 By ensuring the above is implemented, the DPWRT will be able to:

- Allow employees, where appropriate, to accept and receive gifts provided that these gifts do not interfere with or have the potential to interfere with their responsibilities to the department, improperly influence the judgments expected of them when acting on behalf of the DPWRT, or amount to corruption in anyway.
- Protect employees from misplaced charges of conflict of interest or corruption by providing a mechanism for the acceptance and of gifts by employees.

2.4 There are a number of acts, regulations, policies and procedures that influence and enable the process of giving and receiving gifts and as such this policy must be read with the following principles and policies:

- Code of conduct for the Public Service
- The Disciplinary Code and Procedure
- The Public Finance Management Act 1 of 1999 (as amended)
- Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004
- Procurement policy and procedures
- Fraud prevention strategy
- Treasury Regulations promulgated in terms of section 78 of the PFMA 1 of 1999

3. DEFINITIONS

"Benefit" shall mean any tangible or intangible advantages or profits gained, such as tickets to sporting or other events, invitations to lunches, dinners, promotions or travel, etc.

"HOD" shall mean the Head of Department/Accounting officer.

"Corruption" shall mean the abuse of a position of employment by offering or acceptance of a benefit that is not legally due, for the commission of an act in connection with that position of employment, as defined in the *Prevention and Combating of Corruption Activities Act, No 12 of 2004*.

"Customers or clients" shall mean existing and potential future customers or clients external to the DPWRT.

"DPWRT" shall mean the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport

"PSC" shall mean Public Service Commission

"Employer" means a person who:-

- a) Who employs or provides work for any other person and undertakes to remunerate such person;
- b) Who permits any person to assist in the carrying out of the Department's mandate.

"Employee" means a person who:-

- a) Has been appointed permanently, notwithstanding that such appointment may be on probation, to a post contemplated in section 8 (1) (a) of the Public Service Act, and includes a person contemplated in section 8 (1) (b) or 8 (3) (c) of that act; or
- b) Has been appointed on contract in terms of section 8 (1) (c) (ii) of the Public Service Act.

"Gift" shall mean receipts of loans; payments; information or money; services; personal travel; entertainment; gifts or favours from customers or suppliers, or from a person doing or seeking to do business with the DPWRT; any discount; hospitality; tangible or intangible item

having monetary value, including but not limited to, cash, food and drink and honoraria for speaking engagements related to or attributable to the DPWRT and employment or the official position of an employee.

"Gratification" shall mean gratification as defined in section 1 of the *Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act No 12 of 2004* (as amended).

"Suppliers" shall mean existing and potential vendors, contactors, sourcing partners, service providers, distributors, and consultants who supply goods or services to the DPWRT, as well as any other third parties who may in future become suppliers or vendors of goods or services to the DPWRT.

4. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

This policy applies to all employees of the Department, including interns and learners. This policy regulates processes and procedures in accordance with existing legal duties and obligations that an employee owes an employer in terms of the law, and should therefore not be construed or applied in a manner contrary to such duties and obligations, nor is it designed to replace such duties and obligations.

5. AUTHORITY & APPROACH

- 5.1 The HoD will ensure that the requirements of the *Gifts Policy* are met.
- 5.2 If circumstances warrant it, the HoD may authorise any amendment in the procedures to be followed in a particular case.

6. CORE POLICY PRINCIPLES

- 6.1 It is often standard business practice within the private sector to offer gifts and hospitality to current and potentially future clients. The acceptance of such gifts and hospitality may be accepted under certain conditions.
- 6.2 Any acceptance of an offer of a bribe or a commission must however be viewed as illegal and may result in criminal action.
- 6.3 Employees must take great care not to be placed in a situation where their actions might be construed to be improper, may indicate bias towards an organisation or person, or indicate favouritism towards any organisation or person.
- 6.4 The acceptance of gifts or hospitality by employees should be the exception and not the rule. If doubt exists about the propriety of the gift or hospitality then it must be refused.
- 6.5 The basis for remuneration of employees is their pay and any allowances to which they might be entitled. This must not be supplemented by the acceptance of gifts or hospitality for the work that they perform.

- 6.7 Under no circumstances should an employee attempt to solicit a gift from a contractor, supplier, consultant or a person to whom services are rendered by the DPWRT.

7. PROHIBITION ON THE ACCEPTANCE AND RECEIPT OF GIFTS

DPWRT employees are required to use their best judgement to avoid situations of real or perceived conflict. DPWRT employees shall not accept, solicit or give gifts, hospitality or any other benefits that may have an influence on their objectivity in carrying out their official duties or that may place them under obligation to the donor.

7.1 General prohibition

- 7.1.1 In accordance with an employee's obligation to act in the best interest of his/her employer, all employees are prohibited from soliciting, accepting or receiving, or from agreeing to solicit, accept or receive, any gifts directly or indirectly, other than in terms of the procedures prescribed in this policy.
- 7.1.2 An employee's family is prohibited from soliciting, accepting or receiving any gifts directly or indirectly on behalf of the employee, where such gifts are obtained from suppliers, clients or third parties, and where the employee has a professional relationship with those suppliers, clients or third parties on behalf of the DPWRT.
- 7.1.3 In the event of uncertainty as to whether a disclosure should be made in terms of this policy, it is the duty of an employee to seek advice and to make a disclosure as per the appropriate procedures describe below.

7.2 Specifically prohibited gifts

- 7.2.1 All travel at the expense of suppliers, vendors, clients or third parties by employees or employee's family is specifically prohibited.
- 7.2.2 The acceptance or receipt of cash (bank notes or equivalent) is specifically prohibited.

8. PROCEDURE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND RECEIPT OF GIFTS

An employee must disclose the acceptance or receipt of any gift as soon as practicably possible but within 30 working days, disclose and report to the supervisor/manager and/or seek approval from the HoD (if the gift exceeds R350.00) any offer made by an external person, company, supplier, or contractor which, if accepted by the member of staff, would result in a conflict of interest.

8.1 General procedure

- 8.1.1 Permissible gifts involving a monetary value less than R350.00 may be received or accepted by an employee whilst acting in his/her capacity as an employee of the DPWRT, from suppliers, clients, contractors or third parties.

8.1.2 It shall be compulsory to disclose all gifts/ donations above R 350.00 and shall be conditions as hereunder.

8.1.3 When receiving or accepting such gifts, the following conditions apply:

- The employee must disclose the acceptance or receipt of any gift in writing as soon as practicably possible, but preferably within 30 working days, to his/her manager who should forward such written record for recording in a *Gift Register* established by the HoD/CFO and maintained in the HoD/CFO office.
- Disclosure in a *Gift Register* must take place in accordance with the prescribed form attached as **Annexure A** to the policy.
- The acceptance or receipt of the gift may not take place in circumstances that amount to a conflict of interest on the part of the employee.
- The acceptance or receipt of the gift may not take place in circumstances that amount to corruption.

9. RECORDING OF GIFTS, AWARDS, REWARDS, HOSPITALITY OR OTHER REMUNERATION IN THE GIFTS REGISTER

9.1 In order to ensure proper procedure and propriety in the receiving of gifts, rewards, hospitality, donations or other remuneration, it is in the interests of the employee and the organisation that such interaction be recorded, inclusive of gifts refused together with the reason for the refusal this is especially necessary to counter suspicion of improper conduct, corruption and bias. All offers of the above must be presented to the national and/or provincial gift register(s), kept in the relevant Human Resources division(s).

9.2 The provincial office as well as each district shall maintain a "*Gift Register*" for recording all offers of gifts and hospitality to employees of the DPWRT that are under their control, as set out in **Annexure A** to be captured, recorded, stored and retrieved for a minimum period of 5 years. The following information must be reflected:

- (a) The source of the hospitality/donor of the gift.
- (b) The venue and type of hospitality/description of the gift.
- (c) The names of the persons receiving the hospitality/gift.
- (d) The names of the persons or company giving the hospitality/gift.
- (e) Whether the hospitality/gift was accepted/retained or not.
- (f) A valuation of the gift must be provided.
- (g) The estimated maintenance cost for a gift received (if applicable) should be recorded.

10. NON-COMPLIANCE AND SANCTION

- 10.1 It is the responsibility of Management to ensure that employees know the policy on gifts and gratuities and that it is properly enforced. Employees who have questions regarding this policy or who are uncertain as to whether a conflict of interest exists should confer with their managers or senior managers.
- 10.2 In the event where an employee needs to advise or seek permission from the HoD, such request or information will be in writing and will be forwarded to the HoD.
- 10.3 Non-compliance with this policy and the procedures described in it may be considered to be gross misconduct and employees may be subject to disciplinary action that could lead to dismissal.
- 10.4 All suspected incidents of corruption and contraventions of this policy should be reported to the HoD for investigation in terms of this policy.

11. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 11.1 The success of this policy will depend on the consideration and cooperation of all employees. Any conflicts should be brought to the attention of the appropriate supervisor and if necessary, the Director: Human Resources.
- 11.2 The normal disciplinary and grievance policies and procedures of the DPWRT should be followed.

12. POLICY CONTROLS

12.1 Policy Audit

The departments involved in the executing of the policy may report on the policy and specific problems experienced in the implementation of the policy when deemed necessary.

12.2 Policy Amendment

No amendment(s) may be made to any section of this policy without prior approval of the Accounting Officer.

APPROVED


Mr. M THOBAKGALE
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT


DATE

DPWRT Disclosure Form: Annexure A

Disclosure Form for Acceptance or Receipt of Gifts

Purpose

The purpose of this disclosure form is to provide a record of any gifts accepted or received by an employee as stipulated in the DPWRT Gifts Policy.

Disclosure

Please provide details of any gifts accepted or received, including the name of the supplier, client or third party, the nature of the gift, the estimated value of the gift, the date of acceptance or receipt of the gift, and any other relevant information. Please attach any relevant documents to this disclosure form.

Certification

I have read and understood the DPWRT Policy on Gifts and have disclosed all material facts and circumstances relating to the receipt and acceptance of the specified gifts (including benefits or gratuities as defined in the policy).

I understand that if I have misrepresented the material nature of any gift accepted or received, that such action could constitute misconduct that may result in disciplinary action being taken against me, which may result in dismissal.

Employee Signature: _____

Date: _____

Employee Name: _____

Employee No: _____

Manager Name: _____

Business Unit: _____

Manager Signature: _____

Head of Department Name: _____

Date: _____

Head of Department Signature: _____