

The office of the Government Secretary has declared all Government offices, 'smoke-free environment' with immediate effect; of the date of the announcement, July 05, 2001.

The declaration came after Members of the Senate passed a motion, (a) lauding the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare for declaring all its premises and vehicles 'smoke-free zone', and (b) calling on Government to make the same declaration for all Public Offices.

The Circular hereunder, is with full details of the declaration:

GOVERNMENT SECRETARY CIRCULAR NOTICE NO. 1 OF 2001

Office of the Government Secretary

P. O. Box 527

Maseru 100

5 July, 2001

GS/MIN/5

TO: ALL PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES
ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENT
ALL DISTRICT SECRETARIES

COPY: SENIOR PRIVATE SECRETARY TO HIS MAJESTY
ATTORNEY – GENERAL
CLERK TO THE SENATE
CLERK TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
AUDITOR – GENERAL
OMBUDSMAN
SECRETARY, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

PROHIBITION OF SMOKING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

It is notified for general information that Government has decided that, with immediate effect, the policy of prohibiting smoking of tobacco and tobacco products in the workplace has been adopted.

In this context, workplace includes any indoor or enclosed area in which employees perform the duties of their employment and further includes any corridor, lobby, stairwell, elevator, cafeteria, washroom or other common areas frequented by employees during the course of their employment.

The ban on smoking extends to every person in a work place, whether they are employed there or are visitors.

Addressees are therefore requested to ensure that employees who do not want to be exposed to tobacco smoke in the work place are protected and that they may object to tobacco smoke without fear of retaliation of any kind.

This policy, however, provides for designation of certain areas where smoking is permitted and should

regulate the duration and frequency of smoke breaks in order that smokers and non-smokers are treated fairly.

It is essential that the contents of this policy as well as the consequences of contravention be communicated effectively to all employees. Henceforth, all Government offices are declared smoke-free environment and visible posters should be so displayed.

S.H. SEKATLE

Government secretary (acting)

Adoption of this policy on tobacco smoking, follows-up on the other already existing initiatives of Government at warning the nation on the danger with the same. An earlier article of 18.06.2001, *The 'World No-Tobacco Day' Celebrations in Lesotho'* (on this Web Site) is one case depicting the mentioned initiative.

SOURCE: 1. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARY

2. THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION

Source:

<http://www.lesotho.gov.ls/articles/LGO%20Officially%20Declared%20A0%20E2%80%98Smoke-Free%20Environment..htm> (accessed 06.05.2009)