



Newsletter

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SNIPPETS FROM SMART GOVERNMENT 2024 SUMMIT

Balance of Security, Privacy & Digital Transformation

I encourage you to explore the current state of digital sovereignty and data governance in Africa and discuss strategies for shaping a prosperous and self-determined digital landscape.

ROSE MOSERO HSC, FIP - DEPUTY DATA COMMISSIONER

FOREWORD



As we release the 9th issue of the ODPC newsletter, we take this opportunity to highlight a significant milestone: the ODPC recently celebrated five years of the Data Protection Act at a half-day conference organized in partnership with Amnesty International. This event marks a pivotal moment as the Office actively engages data handlers nationwide to promote understanding and adherence to data protection principles.

Through our stakeholder forums, we provide essential training for those managing personal data, equipping them to navigate privacy laws effectively. Key discussions during the conference addressed achievements, governance, enforcement, and the need to adapt to emerging technology trends. Panel discussions explored milestones in data protection and the future of data governance, focusing on regulatory gaps and opportunities for reform.

Data handlers—from government agencies to private organizations—are crucial in safeguarding personal data. Many still struggle with their obligations under the Data Protection Act, which has prompted our office to organize focused forums and training sessions aimed at enhancing knowledge of data security and responsible data processing.

Conducted across various regions, our forums ensure that all data handlers, whether in urban or rural areas, have access to vital information. We aim to foster a culture of compliance and transparency, encouraging data handlers to exceed legal requirements in protecting individuals' privacy.

Our interactive sessions include real-world case studies, allowing participants to apply data protection principles to their daily work. Feedback from attendees helps us identify areas needing further support, thereby strengthening our data protection framework.

These forums represent our commitment to collaboration with stakeholders across sectors. Data protection is a collective responsibility, and by working together, we can create a resilient ecosystem that fosters public trust.

Our training initiatives will continue, complemented by public awareness campaigns and consultations, ensuring that all Kenyans have access to the knowledge necessary to protect personal data.

Immaculate Kassait MBS

DATA COMMISSIONER, KENYA

Editorial Note...

In an era where digital transformation is no longer a choice but a necessity, Kenya is at a pivotal crossroads. From mobile money platforms like M-Pesa to the expansion of e-commerce, the country is rapidly embracing the digital revolution, creating new opportunities and economic growth. However, as we dive deeper into this digital landscape, one question looms larger than ever: How do we balance innovation with protection?

As businesses, government institutions, and citizens increasingly share and store data online, the importance of data protection has never been more critical. In Kenya, where millions are connected to the internet and use digital services daily, the need for robust data protection mechanisms is urgent. The Data Protection Act of 2019 marked a significant milestone in this journey, creating a legal framework designed to safeguard personal information, foster trust, and ensure privacy in the digital age.

Yet, with this new wave of regulation, challenges remain. Cybersecurity threats, from data breaches to identity theft, are escalating, and privacy concerns are at the forefront of national conversations. On one hand, businesses need access to customer data to personalize services and innovate. On the other hand, individuals and organizations must be assured that their personal data is safe, that they have control over their information, and that they're protected from misuse.

The key, therefore, is finding the right balance. Security and privacy must work in tandem with digital transformation to unlock the full potential of emerging technologies, without compromising the very essence of the user experience. This requires comprehensive policies, technological investment, and a cultural shift that prioritizes responsible data use.

As Kenya continues to grow into its digital potential, data protection must remain a cornerstone of every decision, ensuring that we don't just protect privacy but also build a secure, trusted, and innovative digital ecosystem.

In this edition, we explore how Kenya can successfully navigate this complex landscape, examining the current state of data protection, the role of regulatory frameworks, the growing threat of cybercrimes, and how businesses can adopt best practices to safeguard both security and privacy.

We hope this issue sparks thoughtful discussions on how we can continue to embrace digital transformation while ensuring that Kenya remains a leader in data protection and digital rights.



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Kenya Marks 5 Years Since the Implementation of the Data Protection Act

NAIROBI, Kenya - November 19th 2024 - The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) marked five years of the Data Protection Act with a half-day conference organized in partnership with Amnesty International. The event brought together key industry stakeholders and partner institutions to reflect on the five years of Kenya's Data Protection Act.

Key discussions focused on achievements, strengthened governance and accountability, challenges, enforcement, compliance, public awareness opportunities, and adapting to emerging technology and privacy trends. The event was officiated by the Principal Secretary of the State Department of ICT and Digital Economy, who was represented by Bernard Rotich, the Director ICT Systems Audit & Control at the Ministry.



In his remarks, he highlighted that the existence of the ODPC has empowered data subjects with rights to access, rectify, and object to the processing of their information. He noted that the ODPC has enhanced regulatory capacity by establishing robust mechanisms to ensure compliance with the law, offering recourse to data subjects while holding data processors accountable.

"Businesses and institutions across sectors are adopting best practices in data governance, fostering trust among consumers and partners both locally and internationally. The ODPC has been at the forefront of actualizing the vision of data governance by building trust, empowering citizens, and fostering a secure digital economy," he said in his speech, read by Rotich.

"As a government, we are committed to providing the necessary support to the ODPC and all stakeholders involved. We will continue to invest in capacity-building, promote compliance, and strengthen the legislative framework to address emerging challenges," the PS assured.

In her remarks, Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait reflected on the journey of the Data Protection Act, reminiscing about key moments and defining points that propelled the ODPC in its functions.

"When we embarked on this journey, I was told that if a law isn't tested within its first two years, it won't survive. Yet here we are,

proof of what passion and collective effort can achieve, even though volunteering. Many of us entered uncharted territory, questioning if we could rise to the challenge. Today, this room stands as a testament to your commitment. Let's take pride in our progress and keep building a brighter future," she highlighted.

In the second part of the event, two panel discussions were conducted. The first topic, "Reflecting on Five Years of Data Protection," focused on achievements and lessons learned. This session highlighted milestones in the implementation of the Data Protection Act, 2019, touching on its impact on businesses, government, and civil society.

It featured the Data Commissioner, Grace Bomu (Secretary, Data Governance and Privacy Society of Kenya), Rosemary Koech (Head of Data Protection, KCB Bank Group), and Tevin Gitonga (Head of Data Governance, GIZ Kenya).

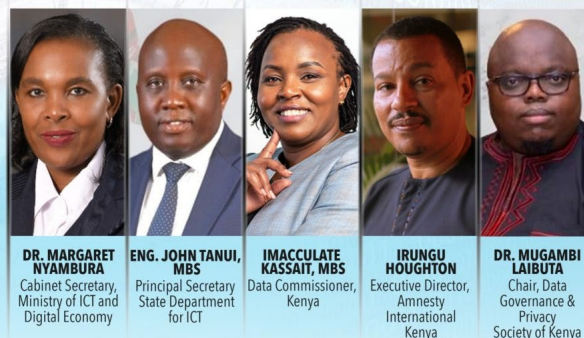
The second panel, "The Future of Data Protection: Opportunities and Challenges," provided insights on the future of data governance, focusing on addressing regulatory gaps, leveraging emerging technologies, and discussing proposals for reform.

The speakers included John Walubengo (Chair, Data Governance Working Group, Ministry of ICT Sector Working Group/Deputy Data Commissioner, ODPC), Rose Mosero (Deputy Data Commissioner, ODPC), Dr. Josephine Mwanzia (Senior Principal Lecturer at Kenya School of Government), Victor Kapiyo of KICTANet, and Joe Githaiga (Partner, Spencer West LLP).

The Data Commissioner further highlighted that the ODPC has achieved key accomplishments, including registering 7,223 data handlers, reviewing 138 Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs), issuing 192 advisories, and conducting 58 audits and inspections.

Additionally, the Office has received complaints, issued 68 determinations, 68 enforcement notices, 11 penalty notices, and resolved 21 cases under the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) framework.

OPENING REMARKS & KEYNOTE



Data Commissioner Urges Balance of Security, Privacy, and Digital Transformation at Smart Government 2024 Summit



NAIROBI, Kenya, October 03, 2024 - Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait, MBS has stressed the importance of balancing security, privacy, and digital transformation as societies rapidly adapt to digital changes.

Speaking at the Smart Government 2024 Summit, themed "Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence for Transformative Change," the Data Commissioner urged ICT stakeholders to prioritize individual rights and address concerns like reporting data breaches within 72 hours to minimise harm to data subjects.

"It's crucial for organizations to adopt data protection principles and ensure they have a lawful basis for processing personal data, along with conducting risk assessments for sensitive operations," she stated.

She highlighted data sharing as a key privacy issue and noted that the office is developing a data-sharing code to facilitate seamless access to government services.

While noting that more organizations are embracing compliance, she called on policymakers to consider ethical

implications and foster informed public dialogue to guide decisions on data security and privacy.

"We must create frameworks that address emerging technologies, enhance transparency in data practices, and implement privacy measures," she added.

Deputy Data Commissioner Rose Mosero HSC, FIP also participated in a panel on data sovereignty in the cloud, highlighting the importance of nonexclusive data localization provisions for strategic state interests. These provisions ensure callability, accessibility, and service continuity while simplifying compliance and auditability.

She clarified that data sovereignty is fundamentally linked to state control and access, especially when data isn't localized. Additionally, "Data sovereignty should be viewed as a state-to-state function, requiring mutual agreements on policies, laws, and safeguards to build trust," she stated. "It's also crucial to have clear policies on data sovereignty that touch on data embassies as we explore cloud solutions for service delivery," she added.



Public Awareness in HomaBay County

HOMABAY, October 04, 2024 - The Homa Bay County Roadshow marked a significant event aimed at educating the public about their privacy rights and emphasizing the importance of data protection. The initiative highlighted two critical aspects: personal responsibility regarding data privacy and the regulatory role of the Office in overseeing data processing. During the caravan, participants engaged in interactive sessions that cover key topics, including how to file a complaint, the rights of data subject and best practices for safeguarding personal information. As part of this campaign, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner aims to empower individuals with the knowledge they need to take control of their personal data. By promoting awareness and compliance, we strive to create a safer digital environment for all residents of Homa Bay County.



ODPC Engages with HomaBay County Government



HOMABAY, October 04, 2024 - The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner engaged in a courtesy call with key representatives from the Homabay County Government on the sidelines of an advocacy awareness campaign throughout the County.

Led by Deputy Data Commissioner for Complaints, Investigation & Enforcement, Oscar Otieno, the meeting focused on collaborative strategies to enhance compliance with the Data Protection Act of 2019. The initiative aligned with ongoing efforts by both government entities and private organizations to cultivate a culture of compliance and accountability in data protection.

The County Secretary Prof. Benard Muok who played host on behalf of the Governor emphasized the importance of compliance measures.

He highlighted the need to educate stakeholders about their rights under the Data Protection Act and ways to safeguard their personal information in an increasingly interconnected world.

Flag-off of the Awareness Caravan

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During the caravan, participants engaged in interactive sessions that cover key topics, including how to file a complaint, the rights of data subject and best practices for safeguarding personal information.

As part of this campaign, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner aims to empower individuals with the knowledge they need to take control of their personal data. By promoting awareness and compliance, we strive to create a safer digital environment for all residents of Homa Bay County.

SAFEGUARDING YOUR PERSONAL DATA

Report to Us Whenever you Suspect your Data is Used Wrongly

We are constantly striving to improve how we serve you. You can **FILE COMPLAINTS** directly on our website, or email us on complaints@odpc.go.ke.

www.odpc.go.ke

EAC Data Protection Knowledge Exchange & Data Governance Policy Framework Validation Workshop in Rwanda

KIGALI, Rwanda - October 17th 2024 - Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait, MBS, attended the 3rd East African Community Data Protection Knowledge Exchange & Data Governance Policy Framework Validation Workshop in Rwanda, which brought together data protection authorities across the EAC to share experiences and challenges in data protection and governance, promoting regional integration and collaboration.



The session was hosted by the National Cyber Security Authority (NCSA) Rwanda and the East African Community Secretariat; the participants primarily included Data Protection Authorities, Ministry of Information Communication Technology and Postal Services, and Ministry of East African Community Affairs representatives. Representatives from the European Union Delegation to Rwanda and the African Union Commission were also in attendance, supported by the GIZ.

The Data Commissioner emphasized the need for stronger political commitment and collaborative efforts from the different member states, which would lend credibility to standardizing the industry and creating a uniform landscape for data protection matters, particularly regarding data flows across East Africa and the continent.

"Harmonized data laws will enable the National Data Protection Authorities to handle data protection matters in a unified way, especially when interacting with multinationals. Thus, regional trade will be enhanced, and the cost of doing business will be reduced," she stated.

Currently, only five East African countries have laws and institutions addressing data protection: Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, and Somalia. The other three countries have yet to enact a framework but rely on various legislations to guide them on data protection.

She further lauded the consent management system being implemented by the United Republic of Tanzania which allows the data subject to have an overview of all personal data that has been used and by which institution; saying "This is revolutionary in the area and region and will enhance accountability and transparency, as these are fundamental principles in data protection"

The workshop marked a crucial milestone in establishing a regional approach to data governance, aiming to realize economic and social benefits within the region, in line with the constituting mandate of the East African Community.

Records Handlers and Champions Undergo Training to Streamline ODPC Records Management System

NAIROBI, Kenya - October 18th 2024 - In a bid to bolster the effectiveness of records management within the organization, records handlers and champions from various departments recently participated in a training session alongside the registry staff and a team from the Kenya National Archives.

This initiative aimed to equip participants with essential skills for effectively managing departmental and regional office records.

The training focused on the approved file classification system and the Electronic Documentation Management System (EDMS). By enhancing their knowledge and capabilities, the participants are expected to streamline the records management process and ensure alignment with the approved records management policy.

This dual focus on both physical and electronic records management is intended to create a cohesive approach that enhances overall operational efficiency and underscores the commitment to improving organizational efficiency and maintaining accurate records across all departments.

Enhancing Data Protection Awareness: Training for Kenya Judiciary Academy



NAIVASHA, Kenya - October 23rd 2024 - The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), held a training session for members of the Kenya Judiciary Academy.

The training aimed to enhance understanding of key data protection concepts, including confidentiality, legal compliance, data breach prevention, supporting fair trials, upholding public trust, and managing access control. These concepts are crucial for the Judiciary, judicial staff, and law enforcement due to the highly sensitive nature of the information they handle in their day-to-day work.

Key topics covered included lawful bases for data processing, the publication of judicial decisions, and emerging trends in litigation in Kenya.

Also present during the training were staff from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), the Communications and Multimedia Appeals Tribunal (CAMAT), the National Police Service (NPS), and the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC)

Awareness Creation at The Turkana Tourism Cultural Festival- Tobungu Lore



TURKANA, Kenya - October 24th 2024 - In its ongoing effort to raise awareness across the country, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner participated in the Turkana Tourism Cultural Tobong'u Lore, an event celebrating the rich cultural heritage and tourism potential of the Turkana region in Kenya.

Now in its 8th edition, the event showcases various aspects of Turkana culture, including traditional music, dance, crafts, and food, serving as a platform for promoting local tourism and fostering community engagement.

Through collaboration with local stakeholders, the Office continues to demonstrate its commitment to enhancing the understanding of data protection across all parts of Kenya.

Kiambu's Lady Captain Prize Golf Tournament

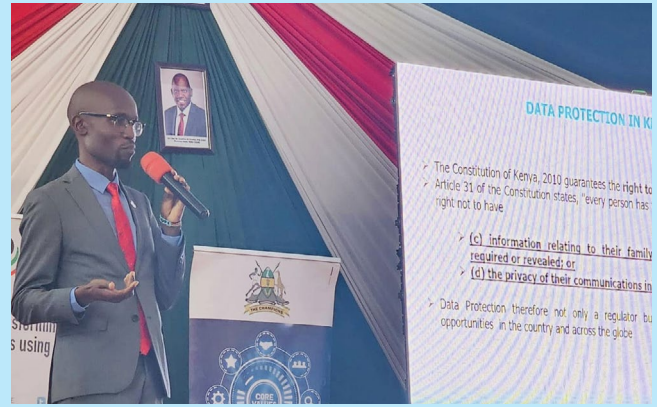
KIAMBU, Kenya - October 26th 2024 - As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility, a team from ODPC attended the Kiambu's Lady Captain's Prize Golf Tournament held in Kiambu.



The tournament served as an engaging platform for organizations to connect with the public and also presented an opportunity to raise awareness on data protection.

By participating in this event, the Office aims not only to raise awareness about important issues surrounding personal data but also to strengthen its presence within communities across Kenya.

Digital Town Hall Session



ELDORET, Kenya - October 25th 2024 - Our Head of ICT Amos Kosgei represented the Office during a digital town hall session involving the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy, private sector partners and the Uasin Gishu county government whose theme is "Unlocking opportunities in the digital economy" and data protection compliance in the era of the digital economy.

He highlighted the role of Data Protection in enabling digital opportunities and benefits of data protection in the era of the digital economy.

Odpc Participates in Legal Awareness Week



NAIROBI, Kenya - October 31st 2024 - In its efforts to raise public awareness about the importance of data protection and to educate Kenyans on their data rights, the ODPC participated in the Legal Awareness week. This initiative aims to enhance understanding of data protection issues among the public; especially in a rapidly evolving digital landscape where personal information is increasingly vulnerable. Moreover, the participation in Legal Awareness Week served to increase the visibility of the ODPC brand, reinforcing its role as a key player in the promotion and enforcement of data protection laws in Kenya.

Regulatory Challenges of Disruptive Technologies

JERSEY, CHANNEL ISLANDS, October 31st, 2024 - Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait, MBS, attended the Global Privacy Assembly where she participated in three plenary sessions: regional challenges of disruptive technologies, "How do Indigenous communities develop their own Data Protection frameworks?" and common standards for Data Protection in Humanitarian Action.



The event themed 'The Power of AI' took place in Jersey, Channel Islands from October 28th – November 1st, 2024.

The plenary session on the regional challenges of disruptive technologies session explored the social, economic, and industrial impacts of emerging technologies in different regions.

In her remarks, she highlighted some of the regulatory challenges faced by regulators in light of the emerging tech,

including gaps in regulating emerging technologies, enforcement challenges, and the lack of global consensus on cross-border data transfer approaches.

"Each disruptive technology presents new challenges to data protection, particularly in defining personal data and managing cross-border transfers. These technologies are ubiquitous and reshape how societies prioritise and allocate their resources to match the vastly evolving techniques they deploy," she stated in part.

The Data Commissioner emphasized the need for consistency in approaches to cross-border data transfer, such as adequacy decisions, binding rules, model contracts, and consent.

To mitigate privacy and data security risks, especially in regions with less developed tech infrastructure, she suggested "developing, reviewing and amending their data protection laws to establish single independent national data protection authorities. -Strengthening enforcement powers which can be done by broadening enforcement powers, and increasing the size and range of fines and sanctions in data protection."

During the plenary session on "How do Indigenous communities develop their own Data Protection frameworks?" the Data Commissioner emphasized key potential privacy harms from an intercultural and Indigenous perspective, including unauthorized data collection, which denies communities the chance to make informed decisions about sharing their data; misrepresentation and misuse of data, leading to cultural insensitivity; and the commercial exploitation of Indigenous genetic data without recognition or benefit

to the communities.

"When data is controlled by third parties, communities lose autonomy over how their information is used and shared, resulting in exclusion from decision-making processes that affect their lives."

"Historical and ongoing data exploitation fosters deep mistrust of external entities, hindering future collaboration and data-sharing opportunities. Misuse of data can have long-term negative impacts on the social, economic, and cultural well-being of future generations," she said.

She encouraged the development of national, regional, and continental policies, strategies, standards, and guidelines in deploying digital governance services and establishing technical standards for identity verification.

"Developing a data protection framework is a dynamic process that requires collaboration among governments, businesses, and communities. By prioritizing privacy, fostering trust, and supporting innovation, we can create a robust framework to safeguard personal information in the digital age. Let us work together to ensure data protection is a fundamental right for all," she pointed out.

The session on common standards for Data Protection in Humanitarian Action focused on the launch of handbook and training program for Data Protection Officers in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Data Commissioner highlighted the ODPC's partnership with ICRC to enhance knowledge sharing and capacity building of DPO's in the humanitarian sector to enhance compliance.

National Criminal Investigations Academy Trains CIE Directorate to Boost Technical Skills

MACHAKOS, Kenya November 1st, 2024 - In a bid to enhance technical skills and improve service delivery, the National Criminal Investigations Academy conducted a training program for a team from the Complaint, Investigation, and Enforcement (CIE) Directorate.

This training marks the third phase of the Investigation Skills Development Program specifically designed for the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC). The program aims to equip Data Protection Officers with essential investigative techniques that are crucial for effectively fulfilling the mandate of the Office.

By honing these skills, the CIE team will be well equipped to address complaints, conduct thorough investigations, and enforce data protection regulations.

This initiative underscores the ODPC commitment to professional development and its proactive approach to protect personal data in Kenya through compliance, enforcement, public awareness and institutional capacity development.



Awareness Creation for the Entertainment Industry

NAKURU, Kenya November 2nd 2024 – The Pamoja Festival 2024 in Nakuru served as a key platform for the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) to engage with the public and enhance awareness creation for the entertainment industry.

The participation in the initiative organized by the Pubs and Restaurants Association of Kenya (PERAK), aims to promote awareness about the significance of data protection in the entertainment industry. The ODPC took advantage of this opportunity to educate Kenyans about their rights, safe practices, and to offer practical tips for safeguarding personal information.

ODPC Hosts COMESA and MICDE Team for a Meeting on Africa Cloud Ecosystem Initiative



NAIROBI, Kenya - November 5th 2024 - ODPC hosted a team from the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy (MICDE) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) for a meeting on the pre-market analysis of a project aimed at creating an African cloud ecosystem.

The initiative will be implemented by COMESA, with support from the African Development Bank (AfDB Group).

Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait, MBS, lauded the initiative as a strategic African solution that will foster discussions on establishing a unified, borderless digital continent. She emphasized that it will assist member states lacking robust ICT infrastructure by providing cloud services.

She also highlighted that the Kenyan Data Protection Law includes provisions for cross-border data transfer, creating an enabling environment to support the implementation of the Africa Cloud Ecosystem while ensuring safeguards for personal data protection.

Data Commissioner Advocates for Compliance in Manufacturing Sector

NAIROBI, Kenya - November 5th 2024 - Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait, MBS issued remarks during the 7th edition of the Changamka Kenya Shopping Festival where she highlighted the importance of taking into consideration issues of data protection in the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and in the manufacturing sector.

In her remarks, she pointed out that Kenya is being considered for an adequacy decision by the European Union (EU) noting that this will consequently open markets for Kenyan manufacturers in Europe.



Further, the Data Commissioner acknowledged some of the challenges faced by manufacturers from a compliance perspective which include security vulnerabilities, data minimization, advancements in technology and fragmented legal and regulatory frameworks.

ODPC participation in the event was not only aimed at raising public awareness on data protection but also focused on fostering partnerships with regional businesses, supporting sustainable practices and digital transformation in Kenya's manufacturing industry.

Under the theme 'Celebrating the Ingenuity of Kenya's Manufacturing Sector.' The event was hosted by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) in partnership with the Ministry of Investments, Trade, and Industry.

A Workshop with the Parliamentary Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation

MOMBASA, Kenya - November 7th 2024 - The Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait, MBS attended a two-day consultative workshop with the Parliamentary Committee on Communication, Information, and Innovation, led by Hon. John Kiari. Present was Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Information, Communications and Digital Economy Dr. Margaret Ndong'u, State Department of ICT and Digital Economy Principal Secretary Eng. John Tanui, MBS and his counterpart from the State Department of Broadcasting Prof. Edward Kisiang'ani.

Ministerial Performance Contract Validation Session

NAIROBI, Kenya October 9th 2024 - ODPC joined other agencies within the Ministry of Information, Communications and Digital Economy during the Ministerial Performance Contract Validation Session which is critical in monitoring ongoing government projects and strategizing on efficiency in service delivery.

The session was chaired by Eliud Owalo FIHRM, EGH, the Deputy Chief of Staff in charge of Performance and Delivery Management in the Executive Office of the President of Kenya.

The objective of the session was to ensure that government MDAs are held accountable for their performance and that they adhere to the commitments outlined in their contracts.



Garissa Regional Office Courtesy Call

GARISSA, Kenya October 11th 2024 - The ODPC Garissa Regional Officers held a meeting with the Ag. County Secretary, Garissa County, Ms. Khadija Ahmed who is also the County Attorney to discuss areas of collaboration in promoting compliance with the Data Protection Act of 2019. Ms. Khadija assured the Office of the County's support in creating awareness within the region.



Mental Awareness Week

NAIROBI, Kenya October 12th 2024 - In a move to challenge mindsets and promote a culture that values mental wellbeing, the Office participated in Mental Wellness Awareness Week. This underscores the importance of fostering an environment where employees can thrive, ultimately leading to both individual and organizational success.

As part of this event, the Principal Data Protection Officer- Kisumu Regional Officer- Edmond Wandera participated in a panel discussion focused on "Mental Wellness in the Workplace."

The event, organized by the Chiromo Hospital Group, took place at the University of Nairobi Towers.



Cancer Awareness Golf Tournament

NAIROBI, Kenya October 12th 2024 - As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility, the ODPC attended the Cancer Awareness Golf Tournament held at the Royal Golf Tournament whose aim was to raise awareness about various types of cancer affecting individuals in Kenya.

The tournament served as an engaging platform for organizations to connect with the public and also presented an opportunity to raise awareness on data protection.

By participating in this event, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) is contributing to a broader initiative of community involvement.

ODPC Hits 5th County in Ongoing Nationwide Awareness Campaign



BARINGO, Kenya - November 14th 2024 - The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) has today set camp in Baringo County as part of its ongoing nationwide awareness campaign aimed at enhancing understanding of data protection among residents.

The campaign featured a roadshow program and a sensitization session at the North Rift Technical and Vocational Training Centre - Chemolingot campus. The session emphasized personal responsibility regarding data privacy and the regulatory role of the ODPC in overseeing data processing.

This marks the fifth county in the roadshow awareness program, conducted in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Similar initiatives have already taken place in Nyeri, Kajiado, Homa Bay, and Garissa counties.

Following the meeting, the Data Commissioner flagged off the roadshow caravan, which will traverse the region to educate the public about their privacy rights and highlight the importance of data protection.

Through this campaign, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner aims to empower individuals with the knowledge they need to take control of their personal data. By promoting awareness and compliance, the ODPC strives to create a safer digital environment for all residents of Baringo County.

Data Commissioner Launches 15th Edition of DPO Humanitarian Action Certification Course



NYERI, Kenya - November 18th, 2024 - Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait, MBS, officially launched the Data Protection Officer (DPO) Humanitarian Action Certification course, conducted in partnership with International Committee on Red Cross, Maastricht University and Luxembourg Aid and Development.

In her remarks, the Data Commissioner highlighted the importance of the five-day program, now in its 15th edition, highlighting its contribution to fostering a robust data protection culture and advancing discussions on data protection.

She urged humanitarian organizations to strike a balance between operational efficiency and compliance with data protection standards during emergencies, to avoid putting vulnerable individuals and communities at greater risk when the urgency of humanitarian assistance pressures for rapid responses.

"The technological landscape is evolving at an exponential rate, necessitating the adoption of innovations that streamline business processes and procedures. However, as humanitarian organizations embrace these new technologies, they must prioritize the interests of data subjects through the implementation of ethical data processing practices," she said.

CIE Directorate Undergoes Training on Prosecution to Upskill Staff on Enforcement Measures

KISUMU, Kenya - November 26th 2024 - The Complaints, Investigations, and Enforcement (CIE) Directorate held a week-long training on Prosecution, delivered by the Prosecution Training Institute (PTI), an institution under the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The training aimed to improve the skills of Enforcement Officers and also set the stage to actualize Prosecution as an enforcement tool within the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC).



Symposium on Cybersecurity and Data Protection in Humanitarian Action

Data Protection Awareness in Lamu



NAIROBI, Kenya - November 27th, 2024 - Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait, MBS, represented the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner during the Symposium on Cybersecurity and Data Protection in Humanitarian Action, organized by the Kenya Red Cross in partnership with Luxembourg Aid & Development and the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner.

The conference was opened by Emmanuel Kata Kimeu, the Ministry of Information Communications and Digital Economy Secretary of ICT, Security, and Audit, on behalf of the Principal Secretary (PS) ICT and Digital Economy, John Kipchumba Tanui.

In her remarks, the Data Commissioner acknowledged the fast-growing tech space and its relevance for humanitarian action. She encouraged stakeholders in the

sector to leverage new technologies while upholding the rights and dignity of people affected by humanitarian emergencies as they deliver services.

"From a data protection perspective, these innovations raise significant data privacy issues that may result in reputational damage for data subjects, such as limited control over their personal data, unauthorized collection, use, or disclosure, automated decision-making through profiling, and identity fraud through the misuse of digital IDs," she said.

the Prosecution Training Institute (PTI), an institution under the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The training aimed to improve the skills of Enforcement Officers and also set the stage to actualize Prosecution as an enforcement tool within the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC).

LAMU, Kenya - November 29th, 2024 - As part of efforts to raise awareness about data protection, the Office participated in the 22nd Edition of the Lamu Cultural Festival, themed "Celebrating Heritage, Unity, Innovation, and Economic Growth."

The Office utilized the opportunity to sensitize Lamu County residents about their rights as data subjects and to inform organizations operating within the county about their compliance obligations as data handlers.



The Office remains committed to deepening the understanding of data protection laws across all parts of the country.

ODPC Engages and Raises Awareness at the Syokimau Trade Expo and Conference 2024



MACHAKOS, Kenya - November 29th, 2024 - The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner participated in the Syokimau Trade Expo and Conference 2024, where the Assistant Data Protection Commissioner for Complaints and Investigations, Emmanuel Maiyo, shared key insights on data protection.

He highlighted the complaints and investigation process, registration, enforcement measures, and the critical roles of data processors and data controllers.

During a session titled "How Digital Trust and Sustainability Power Innovations in the Future," Maiyo emphasized important points on balancing data protection and innovation in the digital landscape.

He discussed measures for protecting minors, given their increasing participation in social media, and shared best practices for personal data, encouraging individuals to be cautious about sharing personal information as they navigate various social media platforms.

ODPC Advocates for Accountability and Innovation at 2024 Data Protection Africa Summit

KAMPALA, Uganda - December 4th, 2024 - Assistant Data Commissioner for Compliance, Rebecca Mayeku, represented the ODPC at the 2024 Data Protection Africa Summit in Kampala, Uganda, hosted by the Personal Data Protection Office and Africa Digital Rights Hub.

The Summit, themed "Data Protection Compliance: A Catalyst for Africa's Digital Transformation," addressed various issues, including the enhanced need for accountability in data processing, striking a balance between regulatory compliance and innovation, and ensuring that risks are managed through a proactive approach rather than a reactive one.

ODPC's participation at the conference demonstrated a commitment to fostering collaborative efforts in enhancing compliance in the region.




National Conference on Addressing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence

NAIROBI, KENYA - December 9th, 2024 - Assistant Data Commissioner for Compliance, Rebecca Mayeku, represented the Office at the National Conference on Addressing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) and Gender Disinformation in Kenya.




She participated in a panel session titled "Promoting Gender-Sensitive Digital Security Practices in Public Spaces and Electoral Processes," where she discussed how the misuse of personal data contributes to TFGBV, the role of ODPC in safeguarding individuals against TFGBV, and the enforcement mechanisms ODPC has implemented to address issues such as doxing and unauthorized use of personal data.

The conference was organized by the State Department for Gender and the National Democratic Institute (NDI).



Did You Know?

If you suspect that your Personal Data is being mishandled, or **used in a way that violates your Privacy Rights**, you can report to ODPC.

 **FILE A COMPLAINT ONLINE!**

For inquiries and support, email us on complaint@odpc.go.ke

www.odpc.go.ke



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