

DIANI | 17, AUGUST

## LSK Annual Conference 2025: Strengthening Data Protection Conversation in the Justice Sector



As part of its initiatives to strengthen conversations on data protection in the justice sector, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) joined legal practitioners, policymakers, regulators, and thought leaders at the Lawyers Society of Kenya Conference 2025.

The Data Commissioner, Immaculate Kassait, MBS specifically joined a high-level panel discussion on "Mainstreaming ESG Frameworks & Digital Trust – The Legal Imperative in Kenya." The session explored the challenges and opportunities in aligning data privacy with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) goals.

A key message from the conversation was that digital trust is the bridge between ESG aspirations and human rights. Without trust in how data is collected, stored, and used, efforts toward sustainability and governance risk losing legitimacy.

Speaking during the panel, the Data Commissioner noted: "For ESG goals to be truly impactful, they

must be anchored on transparency, accountability, and respect for individual rights. Digital trust is what ensures that sustainability and governance frameworks do not just exist on paper but are lived out in the protection of people's data and freedoms."



The Data Commissioner reaffirmed ODPC commitment to fostering this trust by ensuring responsible data handling, upholding privacy rights, and embedding strong compliance frameworks that support sustainable development while protecting fundamental freedoms.

Similarly, the ODPC hosted an exhibition booth on the sidelines of the event where a team from ODPC responded to data protection related queries and provided on-site support on compliance and registrations.

The Data Commissioner led a team from ODPC in a stakeholder engagement session with key public figures such as Attorney General Dorcas Oduor and Prof. Makau Mutua.

We're glad that through such forums, we continue to address data protection compliance concerns. Let's work together towards building a safer, more trustworthy digital landscape within the legal sector.

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## Kenya Music Festival: Promoting Data Protection Through Music and Art



The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) participated in the 97th Kenya Music Festival 2025 as part of its initiative to leverage the power of music and art as tools for fostering important national conversations about digital safety and data protection compliance.

Various institutions in junior, secondary and tertiary schools competed under under five categories (choral verse, set piece and english verses) and whose theme aligned with data protection cultivating the culture of Data Protection and Developing a Privacy Culture for All Generation

The engagement is part of ODPC's broader initiatives to raise awareness on data protection among children while nurturing a culture of data

privacy across all generations

Remarking on this initiative, Data Commissioner noted "The Office identifies this event as a key forum to empower the general public with knowledge and awareness about data privacy, nurturing a society that values and protects personal data. We are excited to witness the creativity and enthusiasm of the students as they convey these vital messages through their performances."

The Office celebrates the Mount Kenya University choir for winning a sponsored song under the data protection category which promotes safe data use online.





## Enthusiasm, Vibrance & Dedication as ODPC Competes at the LSK Justice Games 2025

Enthusiasm, vibrance, and dedication filled the air as a team from the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner participated in the Justice Games, hosted by the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) in Mombasa.

The event was marked by high energy as staff engaged in the football tournament, fostering camaraderie while competing against teams from across the legal profession.

Beyond the scores and matches, the Justice Games highlighted the importance of teamwork, wellness,

and community engagement among ODPC staff and practitioners in the legal fraternity.

It was a refreshing reminder that while our daily work is serious and impactful, shared moments of connection and friendly competition are equally important in strengthening bonds within and across institutions.

We celebrate our colleagues for their energy, sportsmanship, and commitment, and extend our congratulations to the Law Society of Kenya for successfully organizing yet another edition of the Games.

## Strengthening Collaboration with the Ministry of ICT & Digital Economy



The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) held a meeting with the Ministry of Information, Communications and Digital Economy Principal Secretary for ICT and the Digital Economy Eng. John Kipchumba Tanui, to explore deeper collaboration in advancing Kenya's data protection agenda.

During the meeting, key areas of discussion included policy alignment, coordination of ongoing compliance efforts across the public sector, and enhancing the public awareness on the right to privacy in a digital era.

The PS reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to supporting the

ODPC's mandate, emphasizing the critical role of data protection in fostering trust in Kenya's growing digital economy.

"Data protection is at the heart of Kenya's digital transformation. We are committed to working closely with the ODPC to ensure that our digital economy is founded on trust, security, and respect for privacy." PS ICT, Eng John Tanui

"Collaborating with the Ministry of ICT ensures alignment in strategy and policy. Together, we can create an environment where innovation thrives while upholding the fundamental right to data privacy." Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait, MBS commented.

## Exploring Cross-Border Collaboration on Data Protection



The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC), led by Deputy Data Commissioner – Complaints, Investigation and Enforcement, Oscar Otieno held a meeting with the COMESA Competition Commission and the Competition Authority of Kenya.

The discussions focused on exploring opportunities for international collaboration in promoting robust data protection practices across borders.

This engagement underscores ODPC's commitment to strengthening partnerships that enhance compliance, safeguard personal data, and foster trust in the digital economy.

It marks an important step in fostering regional cooperation, promoting harmonized data protection frameworks, and ensuring that cross-border digital trade respects the rights of individuals.

Through partnerships with regional bodies, ODPC reaffirms its commitment to safeguarding personal data beyond borders while creating an enabling environment for innovation and economic growth across Africa.

## ODPC Engages Stakeholders at Devolution Conference 2025



At the Devolution Conference 2025, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) established its presence in the event that gathered leaders, policymakers, county governments, and stakeholders to enhance discussions on Kenya's governance and development agenda.

During the conference, the ODPC emphasized its commitment to bringing data protection services closer to the community through decentralization. The office has established presence in Eight regional Offices including Machakos, Nairobi, Nakuru, Nyeri, Eldoret, Garissa, Kisumu and Mombasa.

At the conference, ODPC team shared resources, answered compliance questions, registered data controllers and processors, and held interactive sessions to empower data subjects with knowledge of their rights.

We were honoured to host distinguished delegates such as H.E. Dr. Wilber K. Otichilo, EGH, Governor of Vihiga County and Charlene Ruto at the ODPC booth. Engagements like these strengthen our mission to promote privacy awareness and compliance across all regions.

The event invited important conversations on the importance of data-driven governance, highlighting how secure and ethical use of personal data can strengthen service delivery, build public trust, and drive socio-economic development across all 47 counties.

Through engagements with county governments, ODPC reaffirms its mission to decentralize services, enhance compliance support, and create awareness on citizens' data rights and obligations for data controllers and processors.



## Building a Data Protection-Conscious Creative Sector



As part of its ongoing mandate to foster a data protection-conscious and agile digital civil society, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC), in partnership with the Kenya Film Commission and GIZ-Kenya's Digital Transformation Center organized a three-day data protection training for Data Protection Officers (DPOs) in the creative sector.

The training brought together key players in the creative industry, equipping them with the knowledge and tools necessary to integrate data protection practices into their daily operations.

By doing so, the initiative seeks to strengthen accountability, compliance, and trust within one of

Kenya's most vibrant and fast-growing sectors.

During the sessions, Abdullahi Ali, Principal Data Protection Officer – Advocacy and Collaboration, encouraged participants to embrace their roles as champions of data protection within their organizations. He emphasized the importance of building a strong foundation of trust, while upholding transparency through adherence to established data protection principles.

This partnership-driven initiative reflects ODPC's commitment to working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders in embedding privacy and data protection at the heart of Kenya's digital transformation journey.

## Courtesy Call by National Police Service Commission to ODPC on Compliance Needs



The National Police Service Commission (NPSC) led by Deputy Chief Executive Officer John Wambugu, MBS, paid a courtesy call to the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) to discuss matters related to data protection compliance.

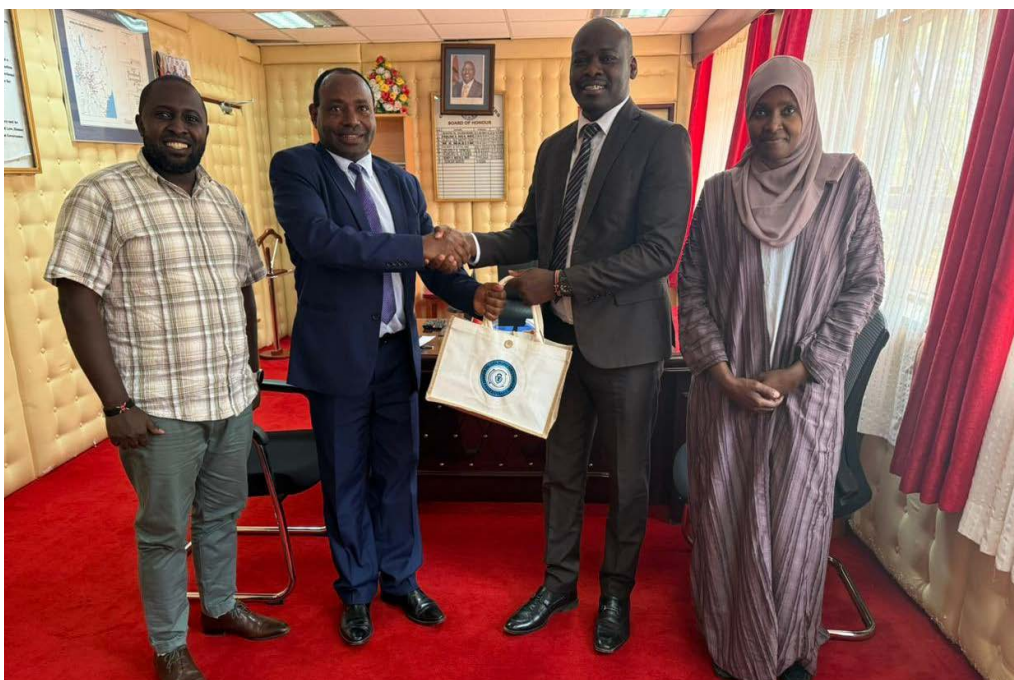
The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration between the two institutions, particularly in advancing compliance with the Data Protection Act, 2019.

Discussions highlighted the NPSC's role as a data controller, ongoing efforts to ensure

lawful processing of personal data within policing and public service, as well as capacity-building initiatives.

Data Commissioner, Immaculate Kassait, MBS commended NPSC for its proactive approach in aligning operations with data protection principles, including transparency, accountability, and data minimization. Both institutions agreed to explore future engagements such as training, joint reviews, and knowledge sharing to foster a stronger culture of data protection in the public service.

## Machakos Regional Office Courtesy Calls to Machakos County Commissioner, Governor and Makueni County Governor's Office



Following its establishment as the seventh Office of the Data Protection Commissioner regional office, the Machakos Regional Office initiated courtesy calls to counties within the Eastern region to foster partnerships.

The Regional Office, which is hosted at Konza Technopolis, was led by Deputy Data Commissioner – Compliance, John Walubengo in a courtesy call to the Machakos County Commissioner's Office where they were received by the Acting County Commissioner David Rotich.

Rotich commended ODPC for its initiative to strengthen partnerships and pledged his support for the office's programs, including training sessions, and public awareness campaigns within the county.

The team also visited the Machakos County Government offices, where they held a meeting with the County Secretary, the Chief Officer for ICT, and the Chief Officer for Public Service Management.



Discussions centered on supporting the county to achieve compliance through registration of departments and awareness-raising on data protection. The collaboration will begin with sensitizing the county executive on the fundamentals of the Data Protection Act.

Assistant Data Commissioner – Registration, John Lokwawi led a team from the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner Konza Regional Office on a courtesy visit to the Makueni Deputy County Commissioner Paul Langat.

The visit served to introduce the regional office to the County, outline ODPC's role in safeguarding personal data, and raise awareness on the rights of data subjects under the Data Protection Act, 2019.

This engagement underscores ODPC's commitment to strengthening collaboration with county leadership while building a data protection-conscious culture at the grassroots level.



## ODPC Participates in Kenya Software Summit Pre-Launch



The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) joined the Kenya Software Summit Pre-Launch Initiative, which brought together key stakeholders from Kenya's technology ecosystem, development partners, private sector players, and government institutions.

The event, championed by the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy seeks to accelerate Kenya's journey toward becoming a globally competitive digital economy.

Speaking at the event, Principal Secretary for ICT and Digital Economy Eng. John Tanui reaffirmed the government's commitment to commercializing Kenya's digital economy, noting that digital skills development is the cornerstone of this transformation.

Data Commissioner, Immaculate Kassait, MBS highlighted the importance of international recognition of Kenya's data protection framework, noting that "adequacy" — a key benchmark under international standards — now positions Kenya to be treated as part of the European Union in terms of trusted data flows.

## Strengthening Regional Data Protection: ODPC Hosts Somalia DPA



As part of the move to strengthen regional data protection, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) hosted a high-level benchmarking session with the Somalia Data Protection Authority.

The engagement focused on enhancing institutional structures, advancing data protection initiatives, and promoting stronger regional cooperation. These discussions highlighted the importance of building resilient systems that not only protect personal data but also strengthen trust in digital platforms and services.

This collaboration marks a significant milestone in the journey toward a rights-focused and harmonized data governance framework in the region.

By bringing institutions together, ODPC and the Somalia DPA reaffirmed their shared commitment to protecting individuals' rights, aligning with global best practices, and driving innovation through responsible data use.

As personal data continues to power economies and shape digital transformation, regional partnerships such as this are essential. They provide a foundation for cross-border trust, inclusivity, and accountability—ensuring that data protection remains at the heart of Africa's digital future.

## ODPC at Daystar University Alumni Professional & Business Symposium



The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) participated in the Daystar University Alumni Conference and Business Symposium, engaging with alumni, students, and business leaders on the critical role of data protection in today's digital economy.

At the ODPC information booth, participants had the opportunity to learn about the Data Protection Act, 2019, understand their data rights, and explore compliance requirements for businesses and institutions.

Through this platform, ODPC reaffirmed its commitment to creating awareness, promoting data privacy best practices, and empowering stakeholders to safeguard personal information across all sectors.

## ODPC Sensitizes Commission on Administrative Justice Staff on Data Protection

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) conducted a two-day sensitization session with staff of the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ).

The training is aimed at equipping participants with knowledge on the Data Protection Act, 2019 and strengthening best practices in handling personal data within their mandate.



During the session, ODPC underscored the importance of safeguarding personal information in the delivery of justice.

As an institution that directly interacts with complaints from the public, CAJ plays a vital role in ensuring that the rights of individuals are upheld while promoting transparency and accountability in the justice system.

The training covered key areas such as the lawful processing of personal data, the rights of data subjects, and the obligations of data controllers and processors. Participants were also introduced to measures for ensuring compliance, including security safeguards and approaches to managing data breaches.



## Data Protection as an Enabler of Digital Trade



Digital trade is no longer a foreign concept in the technological era. We've all engaged in online shopping or some form of digital transactions; This convenience eases the cumbersome nature of traditional trade. Not to get into much details of the pros and cons of digital trade, I will narrow down to the issue of data protection.

For any form of digital trade to occur, personal data is a key component as it is what gives life to transactions and interactions on digital platforms and systems; For instance, phone number to be contacted, address for delivery, bank details for payment, Identification to authenticate identity and much more.

It is encouraging to note that the Government has prioritized digital trade as a key enabler of economic growth through initiatives such as the Digital Superhighway and the Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Project (KDEAP). The availability of free Wi-Fi hotspots in key trade areas, such as markets, alongside the connectivity of cables and digital hubs, demonstrates this commitment to enhancing digital trade and improving the livelihoods of Kenyans.

Now begs the question, why data protection, and what does it have to do with facilitating and enhancing digital trade?

Firstly, the existence of a data protection framework and the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner gives Kenya a competitive edge in both digital and cross-border trade. This framework invites partnerships from corporations and jurisdictions that have confidence in our existing regulations. It assures

local and global clients that their personal information is secure, fostering trust in online transactions.

An organization that adheres to data protection frameworks is assured of customer confidence and business relations as consumers remain assured that their personal information is secure, fostering trust in online transactions.

I mean, who would want to have their personal information misused in the course of digital trade.

The Act provides a redress mechanism for customers to file a complaint and guides organisations on their compliance journey. Our Office continues awareness creation activities to enhance data protection in Kenya among both data controllers and data subjects.

For Kenyan businesses looking to expand beyond borders, compliance with data protection laws plays a huge role in expansion, partnerships and opening new markets, as many regions require strict data handling practices.

In an era of heightened cyber threats, which pose significant risks to digital trade, data protection frameworks also provide clear guidance on how businesses can effectively respond to data breaches ensuring operational continuity.

In conclusion, data protection is not merely a regulatory requirement and a checklist for organisations but plays a key role in enabling digital trade. Let us all embrace data protection!

### ENHANCING TRUST & TRANSPARENCY IN

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Comply  
Empower

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## 8,025 Complaints Registered

ODPC continues to receive an increase in the number of informed complaints, as more Kenyans are getting aware of their privacy rights



Cases Recorded with ODPC Upto August 20, 2025

[www.odpc.go.ke](http://www.odpc.go.ke)

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