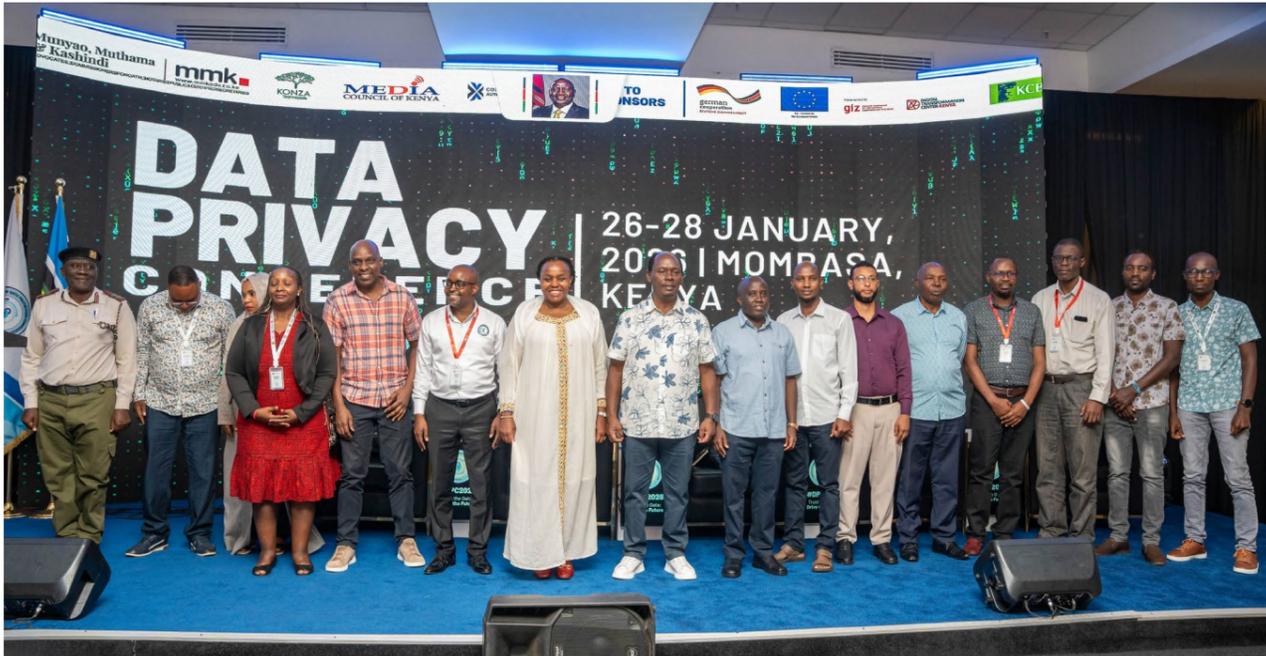


MOMBASA | 26-28, JANUARY

## Data Privacy Conference 2026



The Cabinet Secretary, Hon. William Kabogo Gitau, EGH, officially led the commemoration of the Data Privacy Day which was held post the two-day conference. He emphasized the central role of data protection in building public trust, strengthening service delivery, and enabling secure digital transformation.

He noted that as data becomes a critical driver of economic growth and innovation, safeguarding personal information must remain a shared responsibility across government, the private sector, and the public. "Imagine a Kenya in 2035 where technology empowers every citizen, where data drives innovation across all sectors, and where our nation stands as a beacon of trust, progress, and human-centered digital transformation."

He commended the Office for convening this forward-looking forum and for its exemplary leadership in cultivating trust in Kenya's data ecosystem.

The Principal Secretary, Eng. John Kipchumba Tanui, CBS, highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to strengthen institutional frameworks, enhance compliance, and promote a culture of accountability in the handling of personal data.

"As we engage over the coming days, I encourage all participants to contribute constructively and to focus on solutions that balance innovation with accountability, and economic growth with the protection of fundamental rights. Together, we can strengthen trust in data and ensure that Kenya's digital economy delivers meaningful and sustainable benefits for all," he said while officially opening the conference.

In her address, Data Commissioner, Immaculate Kasait, SC, MBS, reiterated the ODPC's mandate to protect the privacy rights of individuals while enabling lawful and ethical data use. She emphasized the need for continuous public awareness, capacity building, and collaboration among stakeholders to address emerging data protection challenges in areas such as digital services, media, education, health, and emerging technologies.

"This conference comes at a critical moment. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and data-driven public services are transforming how we live and work. At the

same time, challenges relating to cross-border data flows, children's data protection, digital health, cybersecurity, and the integrity of democratic processes demand thoughtful, coordinated, and forward-looking responses," she said.

The conference featured a series of panel discussions that provided in-depth insights into emerging data protection challenges and opportunities. Drawing perspectives from government, industry, academia, civil society, and the media, panelists emphasized the need for ethical data use, strengthened accountability, and practical, collaborative approaches to building public trust in the digital ecosystem, in line with the conference theme, "Trust the Data, Drive the Future."

During the event, CS Kabogo officially launched a report dubbed "Data without borders" highlighting cross-border data flows, privacy protection, and collaboration between governments, regulators, and industry to build trust and enable innovation in the digital economy.

He also launched a documentary, highlighting milestones achieved, emerging trends, and real-life stories that demonstrate the impact of data protection on individuals and institutions. This marked a significant step in documenting progress and promoting public understanding of data privacy issues.

Other notable guests who were present during the event included Michael Loikenu Lenasalon, Principal Secretary for the State Department for Devolution H.E. the Governor of Mombasa County through CS Jeizan Faruk, the Director General & CEO of the Communications Authority, David Mugonyi, Regional Commissioner Rhoda Onyancha who was represented by the Deputy County Commissioner and European Union Representative Milou van Mulken, GIZ Representative Christin Kaunga

The conference culminated in a Gala Dinner that provided an opportunity for reflection, celebration, and networking among participants. The Gala Dinner also served as a platform for data protection awards where ODPC announced winners in Data Protection Innovation, Awareness, Complaints Handling, and Compliance. The awards highlighted exemplary practices in compliance, advocacy, awareness creation, and implementation of data protection frameworks across various sectors.

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) commemorated the Data Privacy Conference 2026, held from 26-28 January in Mombasa under the theme "Trust the Data, Drive the Future," underscoring the need to build a digital future that remains grounded in enhanced trust.

The conference brought together government leaders, regulators, industry players, academia, the media, and civil society to advance national conversations on the protection of personal data and the promotion of responsible data governance in Kenya.

As part of the lead-up activities to the conference, the ODPC hosted a Media Breakfast aimed at strengthening collaboration with the media and enhancing accurate, responsible reporting on data protection and privacy issues. The engagement highlighted the media's critical role in shaping public awareness, promoting accountability, and amplifying conversations on the responsible use of personal data.

In recognition of excellence and innovation in the data protection space, the ODPC also awarded winners of the Moot Court Competition, which provided a platform for law students and young legal practitioners to engage with practical data protection and privacy issues.

The successful commemoration of Data Privacy Day 2026 and the Data Privacy Conference reaffirmed the ODPC's commitment to fostering a secure, transparent, and privacy-respecting digital ecosystem in Kenya. By bringing together diverse stakeholders—from government and regulators to the media, academia, and civil society—the event highlighted the collective responsibility to uphold ethical data practices, strengthen public trust, and drive innovation that serves people and institutions alike.



## ODPC Engages Universities in Youth Data Protection Awareness Campaigns



As part of Data Privacy Month activities, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) has been actively engaging students and staff at universities across Kenya to promote awareness of data protection, privacy rights, and the responsible handling of personal information.

Recent sessions were held at the Technical University of Mombasa and Moi University, targeting youth and academic communities to strengthen understanding of personal data management and legal obligations under Kenya’s data protection framework. The engagements aimed to sensitize students and staff on the principles of data protection, highlighting the importance of safeguarding personal information in both academic and digital environments.

“These initiatives play a critical role in building awareness, promoting accountability, and strengthening a culture of data protection as Kenya continues to advance its digital ecosystem,” said Mr. Oscar Otieno, Deputy Data Commissioner. “When we empower the youth with the tools to understand and defend data protection rights, we secure a safer digital future for all Kenyans. This competition and awareness campaign are more than events—they are catalysts for responsible digital leadership.”

The activities at Moi University also emphasized the connection between legal education and practical engagement, encouraging students to actively participate in protecting personal and institutional data. Meanwhile, the Technical University of Mombasa sessions reinforced the application of these principles in daily academic and digital practices, ensuring participants understand the implications of data misuse and the rights afforded to them under Kenyan law.

Through these campaigns, the ODPC continues to foster a new generation of informed and responsible digital citizens. By equipping youth with knowledge and practical tools, the office seeks to create a culture of privacy awareness, ensuring that as Kenya’s digital ecosystem grows, individuals and institutions remain accountable and secure in their handling of personal data.

NAIROBI | 15, JANUARY

### Launch of the National Data Protection Moot Court Competition



The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) has officially kicked off its Youth Awareness Campaign at Moi University, aimed at equipping students with knowledge on their privacy and data protection rights. The initiative seeks to empower young Kenyans to navigate the digital space responsibly while understanding the significance of safeguarding personal data.

A key highlight of the campaign is the launch of the National Data Protection Moot Court Competition, targeting all law schools in Kenya. The competition provides law students with an opportunity to explore complex data protection issues, develop critical thinking, and showcase their advocacy skills in a practical, competitive setting.

Mr. Oscar Otieno, Deputy Data Commissioner, expressed his enthusiasm at the launch:

“When we empower the youth with the tools to understand and defend data protection rights, we secure a safer digital future for all Kenyans. This competition and awareness campaign are more than events—they are catalysts for responsible digital leadership.”

Through this campaign, ODPC aims to foster a culture of digital responsibility and privacy awareness among the youth. By engaging students in both educational sessions and competitive activities, the initiative strengthens legal education while nurturing a generation of informed and responsible digital citizens.

ELDORET | 19, NOVEMBER

### Unveiling of the Data Protection Advocacy Podcast

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) is proud to announce the launch of the Data Protection Advocacy Podcast at Moi University. This initiative is a key component of the National Youth Awareness Program, aimed at inspiring dialogue and equipping students with practical insights on protecting their personal data and understanding their rights to privacy.

The podcast will provide an interactive platform for students to learn about data protection issues, digital safety, and responsible online behavior. It is designed to complement ODPC’s broader youth engagement initiatives, fostering awareness and encouraging informed digital citizenship.

ODPC expresses gratitude to all partners, students, and stakeholders joining in championing a safer and more secure digital ecosystem. Through continued education and advocacy, the office seeks to empower the youth to navigate the digital world responsibly and confidentially.



## Honouring Excellence in Data Protection Compliance



The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) presented the Data Protection Awards 2025 during the Data Privacy Conference held in Mombasa, recognising organisations that demonstrated outstanding commitment to data protection, compliance, and innovation under Kenya’s data protection framework.

The awards formed part of the ODPC’s broader mandate to promote adherence to the Data Protection Act, 2019, and to foster a culture of accountability and responsible handling of personal data across both public and private sector institutions.

The 2025 awards honoured registered data controllers and processors that showed excellence in key areas of data governance. Recipients were recognised for initiatives that strengthened internal data protection awareness, enhanced compliance with legal requirements, improved complaints-handling mechanisms, and introduced innovative solutions to safeguard personal data. Organisations were assessed on their demonstrated efforts to embed data protection principles into their operations and uphold the rights of data subjects in an increasingly digital environment.

Speaking during the conference, Data Protection Commissioner Immaculate Kassait, SC, MBS, underscored the importance of recognising institutions that go beyond minimum compliance to actively champion privacy and data protection.

“Data protection is not merely a regulatory requirement; it is a fundamental pillar of trust in our digital economy. Today, we celebrate organisations that have demonstrated leadership, accountability, and innovation in safeguarding personal data. Their efforts set the benchmark for responsible data governance in Kenya,” said Kassait.

She announced that the Data Protection Awards would henceforth be held annually, becoming a permanent feature of Kenya’s Data Privacy Conference.

“By institutionalising these awards as an annual event, we are reinforcing our commitment to building a strong culture of compliance and continuous improvement. We encourage all data controllers and processors to strive for excellence in protecting the privacy rights of individuals,” she added.

The initiative aligned with the ODPC’s statutory mandate under Section 8(g) of the Data Protection Act, which requires the office to promote public awareness of data protection rights, obligations, and best practices. The presentation of the awards in Mombasa provided a platform for sharing best practices and encouraging peer learning, as the ODPC continued to strengthen Kenya’s data protection ecosystem and enhance public trust in digital services.



### FROM TEAM ODPC:

Our heartfelt congratulations to the Data Commissioner, Ms. Immaculate Kassait, on her recommendation for conferment of the prestigious rank of Senior Counsel, an honor reserved for advocates who have demonstrated exceptional service, exemplary leadership, and outstanding contributions to the legal profession.

This recognition is a powerful testament to Ms. Kassait’s unwavering commitment to the rule of law, data protection, and the advancement of justice in Kenya. Her distinguished career and transformative leadership continue to inspire confidence in the legal and digital governance landscape.

We celebrate this remarkable milestone and wish her continued success as she champions integrity, professionalism, and excellence in public service.

**CONGRATULATIONS SC, IMMACULATE KASSAIT, MBS**

## Are you Registered as a Data Controller or processor?

Play your critical role in ensuring a transparent, and accountable data processing ecosystem to encourage the upholding and safeguarding of privacy rights of persons and data subjects in Kenya.

For more information and assistance, email us on [registration@odpc.go.ke](mailto:registration@odpc.go.ke)

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



## ODPC at the Baringo Trade & Investment Expo 2025

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) was pleased to host H.E. Benjamin Cheboi, Governor of Baringo County, alongside county leadership and delegates during the Baringo Trade and Investment Expo – Kimalael Goat Auction 2025.

The engagement provided a valuable platform to spotlight Baringo’s rich investment potential while fostering dialogue on responsible data use in trade, agribusiness, and innovation.

ODPC reaffirmed its commitment to supporting counties and investors by promoting data protection, digital trust, and compliance as key enablers of sustainable economic growth.



## Championing Data Protection in the Fight Against Technology-Facilitated GBV in Learning Institutions

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) participated in the 2nd National Conference on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) in Universities and TVETs 2025, a timely forum convened to address the growing intersection between technology use and gender-based violence within learning institutions.



The conference was jointly organized by the Office of the Women’s Rights Advisor and Kibabii University, bringing together policymakers, academia, human rights advocates, students, and technology stakeholders to explore practical responses to online harassment, cyberstalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images, and other digital harms affecting learners.

During the conference, ODPC underscored the critical role of data protection and privacy in preventing and responding to technology-facilitated GBV. The Office emphasized the need for responsible handling of personal data, strong institutional safeguards, and increased awareness among students and staff on their data protection rights and obligations in digital spaces.

ODPC further highlighted the importance of collaboration between regulators, educational institutions, and rights-based organizations to promote safe, inclusive, and trusted digital learning environments. The engagement reaffirmed ODPC’s commitment to supporting national efforts aimed at protecting vulnerable groups and strengthening accountability in the use of technology across universities and TVETs.

## ODPC Honoured for Excellence and Innovation at 2025 Public Service Reflection Dinner



The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) is pleased to be recognized during the 2025 End of Year Public Service Reflection Dinner, graciously hosted by the Head of Public Service, Mr. Felix Koskei, in celebration of outstanding performance across the public sector.

This recognition underscores ODPC’s commitment to accountability and excellence, having received an unmodified audit opinion from the Office of the Auditor-General for the FY 2023/2024—a clear testament to strong governance, prudent financial management, and adherence to the highest standards of public service.

ODPC was also commended for its courage and fortitude in showcasing the agency’s talent and unique innovations on a highly competitive regional platform, demonstrating Kenya’s leadership in data protection, digital trust, and responsible innovation.

We remain grateful for the continued support and leadership from the Head of Public Service and reaffirm our resolve to deliver impactful, transparent, and citizen-centric services as we advance data protection in Kenya and beyond.

### DISCLAIMER:

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### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Dalton Mbondo (**Chair**), Carolyne Tanui (**Editor**), Clinton Ooko (**Designer**);

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