

NAIROBI | 14, JULY

ODPC Launches ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System to Enhance Data Protection Service



The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC), led by Senior Deputy Data Commissioner Festus Musyoki, hosted the National Assembly Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait, SC, MBS, officiated the launch of the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner's (ODPC) ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS), reinforcing the ODPC commitment to efficient operations and quality service delivery to the public.

This initiative significantly strengthens the ODPC's institutional capacity by establishing internationally recognized quality management practices that will enhance operational consistency, improve accountability, and support the effective delivery of its mandate to safeguard personal data and uphold the right to privacy in Kenya.

In her remarks, the Data Commissioner emphasized the importance of strengthening internal systems and streamlining processes: "We must ensure that every function from the registration of data controllers and processors to complaint resolution, audits, enforcement, and awareness creation operates with clarity, consistency, and measurable quality."

This launch ushers in a new chapter for the Office. It aligns seamlessly with the mission to protect personal data through compliance, enforcement, public awareness, and institutional capacity development.

Through the implementation of the QMS, the ODPC will:

- Strengthen leadership commitment and accountability across all services.
- Improve efficiency in service delivery and reduce turnaround times.
- Enhance stakeholder satisfaction through transparent, consistent, and responsive service delivery.
- Foster a culture of continuous improvement, innovation, and organizational learning.

The Data Commissioner affirmed the ODPC commitment to excellence in service delivery. "As data becomes the currency of modern economies, the ODPC is committed to serving as a model of regulatory excellence not only in Africa but globally. Implementing ISO 9001:2015 strengthens its capacity to meet this responsibility with confidence, consistency, and integrity."

The project was supported by World Bank through the Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Project (KDEAP), implemented by the ICT Authority.

ELGEYO MARAKWET | 10, JULY

Tree Planting Initiative to Restore Kaptagat Forest Ecosystem

Sustainability requires a collective sense of responsibility and ongoing efforts over time.

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) contributed to environmental restoration by participating in a tree planting exercise under the Kaptagat Integrated Conservation Programme (KICP) at Chebior, Sabor Forest Station, Elgeyo Marakwet County.



The event brought together government leaders, development partners, and local communities to restore the Kaptagat Forest ecosystem and rehabilitate the Keiyo Escarpment.

ODPC's participation reflects its commitment to supporting national efforts aimed at environmental sustainability and resilience.

This initiative is part of the ODPC Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR) and the National Tree Growing Restoration Campaign, which aims to grow 15 billion trees by 2032. It highlights the importance of partnerships in tackling environmental challenges and building a greener, climate-resilient Kenya.

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**

www.odpc.go.ke

Send your feedback/complaint/concern about the quality of ODPC Services to **customer.feedback@odpc.go.ke**, or fill our **WEBSITE FEEDBACK FORM** any time for action

www.odpc.go.ke

we value your FEEDBACK

Trust Without Borders: Shaping East Africa’s Digital Future

A trusted digital economy is built on strong privacy safeguards, practical regulation, and collaboration across borders. These priorities shaped discussions during the First Annual Data Privacy Day Commemoration held in Tanzania, where regional regulators explored ways to strengthen data protection frameworks to support a secure and inclusive digital ecosystem.

Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait, SC, MBS, joined her regulatory peers - Emmanuel Mkilia, Director General of the Personal Data Protection Commission of Tanzania, and Mr. Baker Birikujja, Director General of the Personal Data Protection Office of Uganda for a panel discussion on advancing data protection across the region.

She spoke about the journey of ODPC since its establishment and the importance of developing meaningful relationships between regulators and data controllers

through continuous engagement.

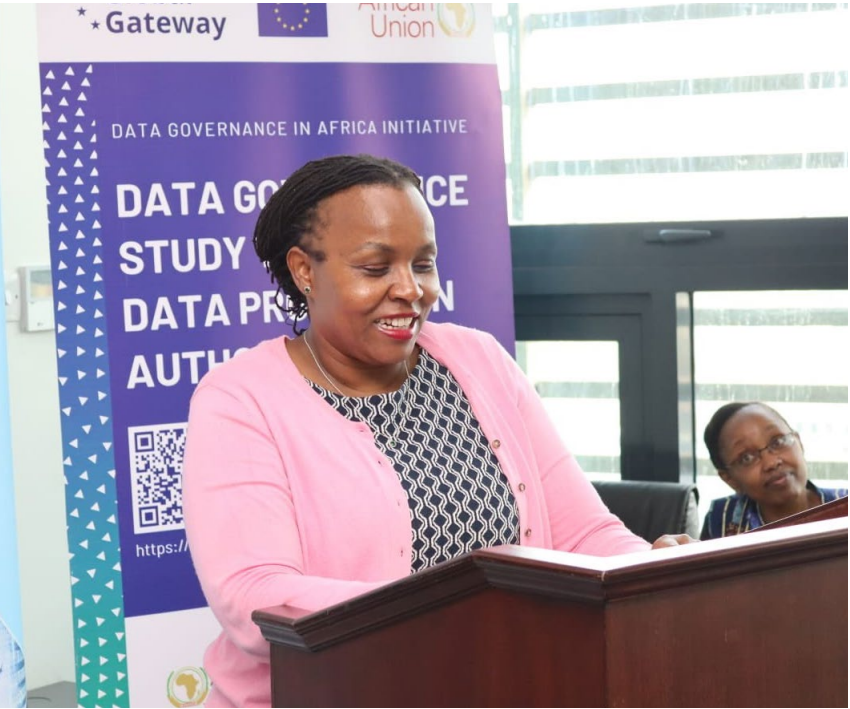
She underscored the importance of strengthening collaboration and adopting open-door engagement with data controllers to foster trust and support compliance. She emphasized on the value of implementing compliance schedules through practical, incremental steps and developing laws and regulatory frameworks that enable and encourage compliance.

“Cultivating a culture of trust in the digital ecosystem is paramount, there is an urgent need for the harmonization of data protection laws across the region to facilitate digital trade, promote cross-border data flows, and accelerate digital transformation,” she said.

This meeting provided regulators with an opportunity to share their experiences and learn how to cooperate in order to create a trusted digital environment.



One Continent, One Vision for Data Governance: Strengthening Partnerships Across Africa



A shared commitment to stronger data governance took shape in Kenya as Data Protection Authorities from across Africa convened to exchange experiences, strengthen partnerships, and develop practical approaches to advancing responsible data governance across the continent.

The gathering brought together experts and practitioners to share knowledge and advance responsible data governance. Participants explored ways to enhance regulatory supervision, increase institutional capacities, and address new data governance issues arising from the digital age.

Throughout the study trip, delegates exchanged best practices on regulatory oversight, institutional capacity, policy implementation, and cross-border cooperation, reinforcing the importance of collaboration in building trusted and resilient digital ecosystems. The discussions highlighted the need for harmonized data governance frameworks to support Africa’s growing digital economy.

The forum also highlighted the unique perspectives and challenges faced by both regulators and organizations operating in the digital economy.

Conclusions were drawn on the main lessons and insights learned during the week, reaffirming the collective commitment of Data Protection Authorities to continue cooperating. ODPC remains committed to fostering dialogue, encouraging knowledge exchange, and strengthening partnerships that advance responsible data governance across the continent.

Strengthening Digital Trust Through Collaboration Ahead of Cyber Week Africa 2026



Data Commissioner joined the Principal Secretary for ICT and Digital Economy, Eng. John Tanui, and other leaders from Government, industry, academia, and development organizations during the Cyber Week Africa 2026 Partners Breakfast.

The engagement brought together key stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and development partners to explore collaborative approaches to strengthening cybersecurity, data protection, and digital resilience across the continent.

Among those present were NC4 Director Dr. Col. James Kimuyu and CyberPro Global CEO Mr. John Mutunga. As digital technologies continue to drive innovation, public service delivery, financial inclusion, and cross-border digital trade, safeguarding personal data and fostering digital trust remain essential to building a secure and inclusive digital economy.

Through the implementation of the Data Protection Act, 2019, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner has laid a strong foundation for responsible data governance by strengthening regulatory oversight, promoting compliance among data controllers and processors, enhancing public awareness of privacy rights, and fostering accountability in the processing of personal data.

Cyber Week Africa 2026, scheduled for 27th–30th October 2026 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), will bring together stakeholders from across the continent to advance dialogue, innovation, and partnerships aimed at strengthening Africa’s cybersecurity and digital trust landscape.

Building Momentum Towards Credible Elections Through Responsible Personal Data Practices



As Kenya prepares for the 2027 polls, safeguarding public trust in the electoral process remains a shared responsibility.

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) was represented by Deputy Director Corporate Communications Dalton Mbondo at the Media Sector Roundtable organized by the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) where he participated in deliberations on responsible handling of information and ethical conduct in the electoral process in the Media Sector.

In his remarks, he emphasized the need for safeguarding personal information throughout election cycles, especially as an increasing number of institutions, media actors and other stakeholders are turning to digital platforms for their activities to collect, process, and share information.

“There is need to comply with the data protection regulations, transparency and accountability in the manner in which personal information is handled in a way that is in compliance with the data protection laws and ensures access to credible and accurate information,” he said.

The roundtable brought together key stakeholders, including the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), Kenya Editors Guild (KEG), Kenya Union of Journalists (KUJ), Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) and other partners, to strengthen collaboration ahead of the 2027 General Election.

The participation of ODPC further confirmed its aspirations for a digital & information ecosystem which empowers the media to fulfil their mandate in supporting informed public participation and a trusted electoral process while also ensuring the protection of individuals’ rights.

Data Commissioner Engages with Key Oversight Bodies



Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait, SC, MBS appeared before the Office of the Auditor General and the Parliamentary Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration, and Agriculture.

Such engagements are key in strengthening accountability, transparency, and institutional effectiveness. They also reinforce the capacity of the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) to effectively deliver on its mandate of safeguarding personal data and promoting compliance with Kenya’s data protection framework.

Accountability and Transparency in Cross-Development Programs

The Data Commissioner, Immaculate Kassait, SC, MBS, has emphasized the need for cross-development programs to adhere to the data protection principles of accountability, transparency, fairness, and respect for individual rights, regardless of where an organization is headquartered, where its servers are located, or the number of countries and implementing partners involved.

Speaking at the Gates Foundation Global Growth & Opportunity (GGO) meeting organized by the Gates Foundation, the Data Commissioner noted that compliance is not about avoiding enforcement but about embedding accountability into partner relationships, data-sharing arrangements, and day-to-day operations from the outset.

“Ultimately, responsible data stewardship is essential to protecting individual rights, fostering public trust, and ensuring lasting

development impact,” she said. One of the key challenges across implementation chains, she pointed out, is non-compliance among downstream actors. Community health workers, field agents, and local implementing partners often operate outside effective oversight.

“This reflects a structural governance failure in program design and contracting rather than individual negligence. Grant agreements often treat data protection as an add-on, and capacity-building rarely reaches those closest to data subjects,” she explained.

She further reassured stakeholders that the ODPC will continue to adopt a balanced approach that combines collaboration with enforcement, ensuring that “innovation and development proceed in a manner that protects rights, upholds dignity, and sustains public trust.”

Trust, Not Silos: PS ICT & DE Charts Kenya’s Digital Future

Securing trust, partnerships for sharing data is important as it is key to a thriving digital economy for Kenya, Eng. John Tanui, CBS, the PS for the State Department for ICT and the Digital Economy has called for stronger collaboration to turn data into a force for innovation, growth and public value.

At the Global Data Festival & Kenya Space Expo 2026, she emphasized the need for integrating isolated data siloes into trusted data systems, which ensures secure and responsible data sharing for promoting innovation and informed decision-making.

Focus on privacy, transparency, interoperability and public trust are essential components for strong governance that will be fundamental with the growth of artificial intelligence in the global digital landscape, she added.

The meeting strengthened the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner’s efforts and determination to promote responsible data sharing while upholding the rights and freedoms of individuals and establishing trust and accountability as cornerstones of the Kenyan digital transformation process.



Data Commissioner Calls for Coordinated Action Among Data Protection Officers to Enhance Data Protection

The Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait has called upon Data Protection Officers (DPOs) to adopt coordinated actions, information sharing, and harmonized approaches to address data protection challenges, including cybersecurity and fragmented regulatory frameworks across jurisdictions.

She made these remarks during the Data Protection Officer (DPO) Humanitarian Action Certification course where 16 nationalities were represented, emphasizing that through collaboration, continuous dialogue, and capacity building, industry players can strengthen collective resilience and ensure that data protection remains central to humanitarian action.

She highlighted the necessity of strong collaborative efforts and sustained engagement among all stakeholders, including humanitarian organizations, regulators, technology partners, donors, and, importantly, the affected populations themselves.

Furthermore, she urged DPOs to continuously raise awareness among affected communities regarding how their data is collected, used, shared, and protected, noting that this is essential for promoting transparency and informed participation. “Meaningful engagement helps build trust, empowers individuals to exercise their rights, and reinforces accountability within humanitarian operations,” she remarked.

Additionally, she called on humanitarian DPOs to uphold the highest standards of accountability, transparency, and integrity in handling personal data, especially in today’s interconnected global environment. She stated,

“Technologies deployed to enhance humanitarian action have advanced significantly. While these innovations bring greater efficiency and reach, they also introduce new and evolving risks.”

The event was supported by the European Centre on Privacy and Cybersecurity and the International Committee for the Red Cross.



Partnering with MCK to Sensitize Students on Data Protection at Journalism Expos

As part of awareness creation initiatives, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) joined the Media Council of Kenya at the Student Journalism Clubs Expo at Mukumu Girls and Homa Bay High Schools.

The events brought together more than 70 schools from the Western and Nyanza regions, creating a valuable platform for discussions on safeguarding personal information, ethical communication, and responsible participation in today’s digital space.

Principal Data Protection Officer for the Kisumu Regional Office, Elphas Sagas, sensitized the students on the importance of safeguarding personal information, the safe use of digital platforms, and the ethical principles of journalism and communication on the internet.

ODPC Participates in Annual Pan-African Media Summit Hosted by the Media Council of Kenya

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) joined media practitioners, policymakers, regulators, development partners, and communication professionals at the Annual Pan-African Media Summit convened by the Media Council of Kenya.

The forum featured high-level keynote addresses and panel discussions on media sustainability, press freedom, digital transformation, information integrity, and collaboration between regulators and online platforms.

Discussions highlighted the growing impact of emerging technologies, ethical journalism, and the critical role of media in advancing transparency, accountability, and public trust.

The ODPC also exhibited at the summit through an interactive exhibition booth, where stakeholders were engaged on data protection awareness, digital rights, and the importance of safeguarding personal data within the evolving media and digital communication landscape.



Legal Practitioners Urged to Embrace Data Protection Principles at LSK Caucus



At the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) in-house lawyers caucus, Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait, MBS, urged legal practitioners to thoroughly understand data protection and privacy concepts.

She emphasized the importance of monitoring changes in privacy, data protection, and ICT legislation while keeping pace with emerging technologies. “A deep understanding of data protection principles is essential for legal practitioners to effectively navigate the evolving landscape of personal data processing,” she stated.

This knowledge, she said, will enrich the data protection landscape and ensure the incorporation of data protection principles in legal practices. The Data Commissioner also encouraged collaboration with the ODPC when necessary. However, she acknowledged challenges such as policy lag—where technology evolves faster than regulations—and divergent data protection standards, which complicate harmonization due to varying definitions of personal data and consent.

“The ODPC is committed to enhancing knowledge and understanding of data protection among stakeholders across various sectors to build trust and transparency in Kenya,” she remarked.

NADPA AGM Conference in Côte d'Ivoire: Strengthening Data Protection Across Africa



Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait represented Kenya at the 2026 Network of African Data Protection Authorities (NADPA) Annual General Meeting and Conference in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

The meeting brought together African data protection authorities and other stakeholders to discuss emerging issues in the data protection landscape. Key topics included data governance, artificial intelligence, and other emerging technologies, cross-border data flows, and regional harmonization.

The conversations underscored the importance of collaboration and knowledge exchange in building sustainable and resilient data protection ecosystems across the region.

In her final remarks as outgoing Vice Chair of NADPA, the Data Commissioner called upon African Data Protection Authorities to actively participate in Convention 108 and engage strongly with regional blocs. She further emphasized the need for more capacity-building initiatives on data protection, convergence on cross-cutting issues such as consumer protection, competition law, and enhanced cybersecurity.

"We need to have stronger collaboration on enforcement and continually support the NADPA Secretariat. It is important that we identify areas of convergence and work together to strengthen enforcement and regional cooperation," she remarked.

During the AGM, a new board was also elected to steer the network for the next three years. Congratulations to Cape Verde on being elected Chair, Côte d'Ivoire as First Vice Chair, and Zimbabwe as Second Vice Chair.

Kenya is honored to have served as First Vice Chair for the past three years, a period that saw the development of the network's strategic plan. "We congratulate the new board members and wish them every success in their term," the Data Commissioner stated.

In Case you Didn't Know...

The Office of Data Protection Commissioner was created to safeguard your personal and sensitive data from inappropriate use by entities/ persons who may otherwise harm you or your identity.

As a natural person (owner of the data), you have the right to be informed of how information about you is collected, used, stored or shared. Being aware of your privacy rights is key to ensuring your data does not fall into the wrong hands, or used for the wrong reasons without your knowledge.

It is important to **know how your personal information is handled.**

Reach out to us or visit our website for more information about;

- how to file a complaint
- your data privacy rights
- how your complaints can be resolved
- general information on handling personal data

Email: complaint@odpc.go.ke

www.odpc.go.ke

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