



DATA PRIVACY & GOVERNANCE SOCIETY

DPGSK Report

May 2025

www.dataprivacyke.africa

info@dataprivacyke.africa

Table of Contents:

Message from the Chairperson	3
Message from the Secretary	5
1. Background	6
2. Committee	7
3. Membership.....	8
4. Meetings of the society	8
5. Secretariat	8
6. Finances.....	8
7. Strategic Plan.....	8
8. Website	9
9. Review of the Data Protection Act	9
10. Litigation	9
11. Engagement with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner	10
12. One on One Mentorship	10
13. Report on ODPC Determinations in 2024	10
14. Collaboration Initiatives.....	11
15. Support for the Data Privacy and Governance Student Association.....	12
16. Society activities.....	12
a. Data Protection Act @5	12
b. Townhall.....	12
c. Privacy Week 2025	12
d. Continuous professional development	12
e. Advocacy and policy engagements	13
f. Mentorship to Riara University Students	13
17. Data Protection Officers Survey	14
18. Member volunteers	14
19. Looking ahead	14

Message from the Chairperson

Dear Members,

It is a pleasure to address you through this Report, reflecting on the significant strides we have made together. Over the past year, our collective efforts have been instrumental in advancing the Society's mission. We have actively engaged in various initiatives, including continuous professional development webinars, sector initiatives, mentorship programmes, and impactful policy engagements. I am particularly pleased to see the five-year Strategic Plan (2025-2029) operationalised, providing a clear roadmap to establish DPGSK as the leading society for data privacy and governance professionals in Kenya and Africa. The activities undertaken have provided valuable opportunities for members to network, share knowledge and experiences, and mentor one another.

Our commitment to influencing the data privacy landscape is evident in our active engagement. We have been reviewing the Data Protection Act with a view to improving it and submitted a draft Data Protection (Amendment) Bill to the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC). We are also part of a committee reviewing the Act in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy and the ODPC.

The Society is involved in strategic litigation as an interested party in four High Court Petitions concerning issues such as IMEI registration, the Social Health Insurance Fund (specifically regarding health data), the constitutionality of the Data Protection Act itself, and the powers of the ODPC.

Our collaboration with the ODPC has also facilitated valuable mentorship sessions focusing on practical compliance challenges, audits, complaints, pre-registration, and Data Protection Impact Assessments. Furthermore, the publication of our Report on ODPC Determinations in 2024 has provided crucial insights into trends and suggestions for data handlers and subjects. These achievements are a testament to the dedication of our member volunteers who generously contribute their time, resources, and professional services.

Looking ahead, our focus remains firmly on consolidating our position and expanding our impact in line with the Strategic Plan. We will continuously implement initiatives to grow our membership base. The establishment of a dedicated Secretariat is a key priority once the Society has sufficient resources. The Committee elected in 2025 will ensure regular sector meetings are held and will coordinate monthly continuous professional development webinars, collaborating with member volunteers and external partners to discuss emerging issues, technologies, and practical application of the law. We plan to create greater collaborations around data privacy and governance and are working towards hosting at least two social events before the end of 2025 to foster community.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the Society's goals; your involvement is crucial to our shared success.

Dr. Mugambi Laibuta, PhD, CIPM

Chairperson

Message from the Secretary

Dear Colleagues,

They say that the first three years of any establishment are the most challenging. Here we are, having overcome the teething problems and ready to take on higher challenges.

We could not have made it so far without your support to the Society. Thank you to all colleagues who were panellists at a CDP, asked questions during a forum, contributed to a report or simply started a debate that kept colleagues engaged in the Society. I urge you to please keep on giving your time, knowledge and skills so that we can better each other.

2025 looks promising, let us all partake together and improve our professional standards. Please do not hesitate to reach out to share an idea, query ongoings or follow up on your membership. We are here for you.

Grace Mutung'u

Secretary

1. Background

Date of Registration: 13th January 2023

REG NO: SOCA-W8TAB9E

Mission statement: to be the most inclusive society of data privacy and governance professional in Kenya that champions for the welfare of its members while ensuring legal, responsible, and ethical use of data.

About us: we are a Society registered under the Societies Act with the objective to:

- Build a network of data privacy and governance professionals across Kenya and Africa.
- Facilitate continuous professional development and certification.
- Set professional and ethical standards for data privacy and governance professionals.
- Champion and protect the interests of members.
- Collaborate and partner on projects and training.
- Engage data privacy and governance regulators.
- Collaborate and partner with regional and international societies in data privacy and governance.
- Create an engaging community that provides leadership on data privacy and governance related issues in Kenya.
- Champion policy and legislative reforms in data privacy and governance.
- Engage in strategic litigation on data privacy and governance matters.
- Provide mentorship and guidance to members.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing, lobbying, awareness raising, and networking.

Our members: we have representation from private practitioners, inhouse data protection officers in public and private sector, academia, civil society, young professionals, and university students.

Membership categories:

- o Student Members
- o Professional Members
- o Corporate Members

Contact: info@dataprivacyke.africa

Linkedin: Data Governance Pros Kenya | **Twitter:** @DataGovProsKe

2. Committee

The Society's Committee is made up of fifteen members drawn from all sectors represented in the Society's membership:

Chairperson – Dr. Mugambi Laibuta

Vice- Chairperson - Rosemary Koech - Kimwatu

Secretary - Grace Mutung'u

Treasurer - James Mbugua

Organising Secretary - Phillip Kisaka

Sector Representatives:

Academia - Dr. Melissa Omino and Francis Monyango

Civil Society – Victor Ndede

Public Sector and In-House Data Protection Officers - Edith Lubanga

Private Practitioners (technology sector) - John Walubengo (resigned when he joined ODPC)

Private Practitioners (Legal) and Private practitioners (other) - Faith Mutune

Young professionals (less than five years in the profession) - Jade Makory

University Students - Helgah Were

All members of the Committee serve on a voluntary basis.

3. Membership

654 individuals have signed up to the Society; 135 are fully paid-up members with DPGSK membership numbers.

The Committee will continuously set in place initiatives to get more fully paid-up members to the Society.

4. Meetings of the society

14th April 2024 - General Meeting: The General meeting defined the financial year for the Society to be from May to April the following year. The meeting resolved that the Society should have an official website and a five-year Strategic Plan. The meeting also resolved that the Society holds regular mentorship sessions on data protection practice.

6th December 2024 – End Year get together: This was a social get-together where members who were in Nairobi met for an end of year networking evening.

22nd February 2025 – Special General Meeting: the SGM ratified the Society's Strategic Plan, Elections Regulations, and elected members of the 2025 Elections Committee.

5. Secretariat

The Secretariat will be constituted once the Society has sufficient resources.

6. Finances

The Society has a Bank Account at Kenya Commercial Bank where members deposit their annual subscription fees. A detailed account of the Society's finances is contained in the Financial Report.

7. Strategic Plan

The Society has operationalised its five-year Strategic Plan (2025 – 2029) that aims to establish it as the leading society for data privacy and governance professionals in Kenya and Africa. To achieve this, DPGSK will concentrate on building a robust organisational foundation, strengthening professional networks, enhancing professional growth and ethical standards, advocating for policy reform and public awareness, and empowering members through leadership and welfare programmes.

To realise these strategic objectives, the Plan has outlined several key actions. These include recruiting skilled personnel and implementing digital tools to build a functional secretariat. The society also plans to host networking events and establish partnerships

with global organisations to strengthen professional networks. Furthermore, the Society aims to partner with certification bodies to offer affordable training and launch public sensitisation campaigns to advocate for policy reform and public awareness. Lastly, the society will establish mentorship programmes to empower its members.

The strategic plan includes a monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) strategy to track progress and ensure continuous improvement. This involves regular data collection and integration of findings into decision-making processes. By monitoring progress, evaluating results, and fostering a learning environment, the Society aims to maximise its impact and achieve its goals in the field of data privacy and governance.

8. Website

The Society has a website – www.dataprivacyke.africa. The website is a platform dedicated to promoting data privacy and governance in Kenya. It aims to be an inclusive community for data protection, privacy, and governance professionals, focusing on advocacy, policy influence, education, and awareness. The site offers resources to build a network of professionals across Kenya and Africa, set ethical standards, and facilitate knowledge sharing. Members have been contributing articles to the DPGSK blog.

9. Review of the Data Protection Act

The Society has over the last year and a half been reviewing the Data Protection Act with a view to improving it. In January 2025, the Society submitted a draft Data Protection (Amendment) Bill to the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner for consideration.

DPGSK is currently part of a Committee of the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy in collaboration with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner to review the Data Protection Act.

10. Litigation

The Society is involved in litigation that may impact privacy, data protection, and data governance in Kenya. Many thanks to our volunteer Lawyers for their time and resources to represent the Society. The Society is an interested party in four Petitions currently at the High Court:

- a. Petition challenging Kenya Revenue Authority and the Communication Authority implementation of an IMEI numbers registration system.
- b. Petition challenging the constitutionality of the Social Health Insurance Fund. DPSK filed submissions on the question relating to the critical nature of health data in Kenya.

- c. Petition challenging the constitutionality of the Data Protection Act.
- d. Petition challenging the powers and functions of the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner.

11. Engagement with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner has facilitated two mentorship sessions for the Society with a view to capacity building data protection compliance professions. The sessions offered practical approaches to dealing with day-to-day data protection compliance challenges. The two mentorship sessions covered:

- a. 12th November 2024: ODPC Audits, Complaints, and Pre-registration.
- b. 6th May 2025: Data Protection Impact Assessments.

The Society appreciates the continued collaboration with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner.

12. One on One Mentorship

In 2024 the Society inaugurated one on one mentorship for members. The mentors are established data protection practitioners while the mentees are new to the profession. The mentorship initiative is designed to enhance understanding of the data protection profession. Through this initiative, mentees gain valuable insights and practical knowledge from seasoned experts, which helps in building skills and confidence among practitioners.

The Society has also held open mentorship sessions for members on 23rd July 2024, 6th August 2024, 12th November 2024, and 2nd April 2025. The open mentorship sessions provide a platform for members to share experiences and ask questions and discuss matters relating to day-to-day data protection compliance work.

13. Report on ODPC Determinations in 2024

The Society published a Report on determinations by Office of the Data Protection Commissioner in 2024. The Report reveals trends and provides suggestions for data handlers and data subjects.

14. Collaboration Initiatives

a. Amnesty International – Kenya

DPGK and Amnesty International – Kenya have collaborated with a view to enhancing data governance in Kenya:

- Formulation of a Data Governance Guide for Civil Society Actor.
- **4th – 6th June 2024: Civil Society Organisations data protection compliance training** in Mombasa.
- **27th February 2025 - East African Data Governance Conference:** had a breakout session at the East Africa Data Governance Conference. The session covered the role of data protection professionals and practitioners' societies in advancing privacy protections in East Africa.
- **16th April 2025:** Digital Rights Café on Data Protection Impact Assessments.

b. Ignite Programme

The Society in collaboration with Scratch and Script Limited and a number of local ISACA chapters, ISACA Kenya Chapter ISACA Kampala Chapter ISACA Rwanda Chapter ISACA South Africa Chapter just like in 2024, will be conducting cybersecurity and data protection training program for participants from various African countries including Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia among others.

Over six weeks, key privacy topics to be covered, include Introduction to Privacy, Principles of Data Protection, Rights of Data Subjects, Legal Basis for Data Processing, Data Protection Impact Assessment, and Establishing a Privacy Program.

c. Kenya Association of Travel Agents Memorandum of Understanding

DPGSK signed an MOU with the Kenya Association of Travel Agents (KATA). The MOU provides for collaboration on areas such as capacity building, knowledge exchange, and helping KATA Members comply with the Data Protection Act.

The MOU provides an opportunity for DPGSK members employ their data protection compliance knowledge, skills, and experience within the Tours and Travel industry.

15. Support for the Data Privacy and Governance Student Association

The Society supported the inaugural Essay Competition organized by the Data Privacy Governance Students' Association (DPGSA) of the University of Nairobi. The theme of the competition was "Emerging Challenges and Opportunities in Data Protection in Kenya".

With over 40 entries submitted, the competition provided an excellent platform for students to explore and analyse the evolving landscape of data protection in Kenya.

16. Society activities

Through the support of members, the Society has carried out various activities including continuous professional development webinars, sector initiatives, mentorship, and policy engagement. The activities listed below provided opportunities for members to network, share knowledge and experiences, plus mentor each other.

a. Data Protection Act @5

- 19th November 2024 – the Society played an integral role at the Data Protection Act @5 Celebrations organised by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner and Amnesty International.

b. Townhall

- 16th August 2024 – Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Kenya Townhall that informed Kenya's AI Strategy.

c. Privacy Week 2025

- 27th and 28th January 2025 the Society played an integral role at the Privacy Week Conference in Eldoret, Kenya organised by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner.

d. Continuous professional development

The society organised several continuous professional development (CPD) sessions as follows:

- **5 years of Data Protection in Kenya, a review:** On 5 June 2024, in collaboration with the Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet), members reviewed the highlights, opportunities, and challenges of the Kenya Data Protection Act.

- **Stocktaking on Data Governance During Maandamano:** On 18 Jul 2024, members gathered online to take stock of various aspects of data governance from their experiences in the June 2024 protests.
- **Rights of Cancer Patients:** On 3 Oct 2024, members heard from cancer survivors and advocates on the various challenges faced by cancer patients with regard to privacy rights.
- **Rights of children:** In celebration of international children's day, the society held a session with children on their privacy and data protection rights. This was organised in conjunction with Mtoto News on 21 Nov 2024.
- **Data Privacy and Risk Management:** This session was held in conjunction with the Institute of Risk Management on 23 Jan 2025. It featured the main risks in privacy and data protection from a compliance perspective.
- **Data Breaches Uncovered- Key Lessons for Strengthening Digital Resilience:** This session was organised in conjunction with the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) Kenya Chapter. DPGSK shared its findings from research on ODPC determinations in 2024.

e. Advocacy and policy engagements

- **Finance Bill 2024:** the Society submitted its reservations to amendments to the Data Protection Act that would exempt the Kenya Revenue Authority from complying with the Act.
- **Draft Data Protection (Compliance Audits) Regulations 2024:** the Society submitted comments and views to the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner.
- **Draft Data Sharing Code:** the Society submitted comments and views to the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner.
- **Draft Artificial Intelligence Strategy:** the Society submitted comments and views to the Ministry of Information Communications and the Digital Economy.

f. Mentorship to Riara University Students

- **29th January 2025:** members of the Society held an open forum with Riara University students on the choosing data protection compliance as a profession.

17. Data Protection Officers Survey

In 2024, the Society carried out a survey on the work environment of internal and external data protection officers and published a report. The survey covered areas such as remuneration, conflict of interests, sectors of operation, dual roles, and general work environment. The survey report revealed the need for data handlers to understand and appreciate the role a data protection officer plays in the organisation.

18. Member volunteers

Members have continuously provided their time, resources, and professional services to the Society.

19. Looking ahead

- **Membership:** The Committee will continuously put in place initiatives to get more members to the Society.
- **Secretariat:** Once the Society has adequate resources, it shall establish a secretariat.
- **Sector meetings:** the Committee to be elected at the 2025 DPGK elections will ensure that sector meetings are held regularly.
- **Continuous Professional Development:** The Committee has monthly CPD webinars planned. The committee will coordinate with members who volunteered as well as external partners to deliver talks on emerging issues and technologies for data protection and governance as well as practical application of the law.
- **Collaborations:** The Committee shall work with members to create greater collaborations around data privacy and governance.
- **Social events:** The Committee is working on having at least two social events before the end of 2025.