



DPGSK

Data Privacy
and Governance
Society of Kenya

Annual Report

May 2026

Growth, Impact and Strategic Progress

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Message from the Chairperson

Dear Members,

The past year has been one of steady growth, reflection, and impact for the Data Privacy and Governance Society of Kenya. We have continued to strengthen our position as a leading voice in data protection and governance through strategic litigation, policy engagement, research, and capacity building. Our collective efforts have not only advanced the professional community but also contributed meaningfully to shaping Kenya's evolving digital rights and data governance landscape.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) for its continued collaboration, openness to engagement, and commitment to strengthening Kenya's data protection framework. I also extend our gratitude to CIPIT for its leadership in research and capacity building, and to Amnesty International Kenya for its partnership in advancing digital rights, strategic litigation, and advocacy. These collaborations have been instrumental in deepening the Society's impact and reach.

To our members, I offer my deepest thanks for your dedication, professionalism, and active participation in the Society's work. Your contributions through volunteering, knowledge sharing, mentorship, and engagement in Society activities have been central to our growth and the strengthening of our community. The continued increase in membership and participation reflects a shared commitment to advancing responsible data governance in Kenya and beyond.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on building a sustainable and impactful institution, strengthening our governance structures, expanding partnerships, and enhancing opportunities for professional development. Together, we will continue to shape the future of data privacy and governance, guided by our shared values of accountability, innovation, and public interest

Dr. Mugambi Laibuta, CIPM

Chairperson

Message from the Secretary

Dear Members,

Over the past year, our community has continued to navigate an increasingly complex digital landscape, one defined by rapid technological advancement, evolving regulatory frameworks, and growing public expectations around accountability, transparency, and trust.

This report reflects our progress as a community, and each of us should be proud of how much we have engaged with local and international stakeholders on matters data governance. Kudos to every member who contributed in one way or another to our trainings, webinars, litigation, in person events, advocacy and other activities of the society. We welcome the same robust energy in this coming year, where our expertise is urgently needed as Kenya goes into election mode. If each of us contributes, it strengthens our collective voice.

On behalf of the Committee, I extend our sincere appreciation to all partners, and stakeholders who collaborated with us in our activities. I join the chairperson in mentioning ODPC, CIPIT, Katiba Institute and Amnesty International Kenya with whom we partnered in various activities. We are also grateful to members who initiated some of the partnerships, and we look forward to working together to shape our space.

As we look ahead, I encourage all of us to remain actively involved and creating a data governance culture that is responsive, accountable, and firmly grounded in the public interest.

Yours sincerely,

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

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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 – Faith Mutune

Secretary - Grace Mutung'u

Treasurer - James Mbugua (**Resigned in March 2026**)

Assistant Treasurer – Julie Mwaniki (**Acting Treasurer from March 2026**)

Organising Secretary - Phillip Kisaka

Sector Representatives:

Academia - Dr. Melissa Omino

Civil Society – Victor Ndede

Public Sector – Edith Lubanga

In-House Data Protection Officers – Mercy Wafula

Private Practitioners (technology sector) – Bernard Ngunjiri

Private Practitioners (Legal) - Mutua Mutuku

Private practitioners (other) – Mercy Barasa

Young professionals (less than five years in the profession) – Maria Nambuya

University Students – Kristina Njeri

All members of the Committee serve on a voluntary basis.

3. Membership

900 individuals have signed up to the Society; 249 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

a. 25th May 2025 - General Meeting and Elections:

The Data Privacy and Governance Society of Kenya (DPGSK) successfully convened its Annual General Meeting, bringing together members to review the Society's progress, governance, and strategic direction.

Society Activities and Impact

The Society reported significant growth and impact during the year under review. Membership expanded substantially, with over 650 registered members and a notable increase in paid-up membership. DPGSK strengthened its role as a leading voice in data protection through:

- Active participation in **public interest litigation**, including petitions on digital identity systems, health data governance, and the constitutionality of the Data Protection Act.
- Engagement in **policy and regulatory processes**, including submissions on draft laws, regulations, and national AI and data governance frameworks.
- Delivery of **capacity building initiatives**, including CPDs, mentorship programmes, and collaborations with institutions such as the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) and Amnesty International.
- Expansion of **youth and academic engagement**, including university outreach and support for student-led initiatives.
- Development of key institutional assets, including a **functional website** and a **five-year Strategic Plan (2025–2029)** to guide the Society's growth and impact.

Financial Performance

The Society maintained a strong financial position, operating within its means and recording a surplus. Income was primarily derived from membership subscriptions, with prudent investment in strategic priorities such as digital infrastructure, advocacy, and knowledge products. The Society reported no liabilities and continues to emphasise financial sustainability and independence.

Institutional Development

Key milestones included:

- Establishment of a Strategic Plan to guide long-term growth.
- Increased visibility and engagement through the Society's website and publications.
- Strengthened partnerships and collaborations across the data governance ecosystem.
- Ongoing efforts to establish a formal secretariat and enhance operational capacity.

Elections and Leadership

The AGM oversaw the election of a new committee. Most positions were uncontested, reflecting continuity in leadership, while the legal sector representative position was competitively elected. The newly constituted committee is expected to drive implementation of the Strategic Plan and deepen member engagement. At the AGM the following are the DPGSK Committee Members for 2025 - 2027:

1. Chairperson - Dr Mugambi Laibuta
2. Vice Chairperson - Faith Mutune
3. Secretary - Grace Mutung'u
4. Treasurer - James Mbugua
5. Organising Secretary - Phillip Kisaka
6. Academia Reps - Dr. Melissa Omino
7. Inhouse DPOs Rep - Mercy Wafula
8. Civil society Rep - Victor Ndede
9. Public Sector Rep - Edith Lubanga
10. Young professionals Rep - Maria Nambuya
11. Tech professionals Rep - Benard Ngunjiri
12. Other Professionals Rep - Mercy Barasa
13. Private Practitioners Legal - Mutua Mutuku
14. University Students Rep - Kristine Njeri
15. Deputy Treasurer - Mwende Mwaniki

AGM Key Resolutions and Way Forward

Members resolved to:

- Enhance governance structures, including auditor appointment and financial reporting reforms.
- Explore diversified funding, including donor partnerships.
- Improve operational efficiency, including membership systems and automation.

- Expand member engagement through regional chapters, sector forums, and physical events.
- Strengthen student and early-career participation in the Society.

b. 4th November 2025 – Special General Meeting:

The Society convened a Special General Meeting (SGM) following the adjournment of an earlier meeting due to lack of quorum, in accordance with the Constitution. The SGM focused on strengthening DPGSK's governance, financial management, and institutional sustainability.

Financial Year Alignment: Members unanimously approved the change of the Society's financial year from **May–April to January–December**. *(This was filed with the Registrar of Societies; however, consideration was deferred, with the Registrar proposing several amendments. These proposed amendments will be tabled for discussion and adoption at the 2026 AGM)*

This change:

- Aligns the Society with statutory filing timelines under the Societies Act and tax requirements.
- Provides a clearer audit and reporting cycle.
- Enhances transparency in membership validity and financial reporting.

Appointment of External Auditors: Members approved the appointment of **Kagu Kagwe & Associates** as external auditors for the financial years **2023–2026**.

Introduction of Corporate Membership Framework: Members approved amendments to the Constitution to operationalise a **tiered corporate membership model**. Key features include:

- Introduction of structured corporate membership tiers (e.g., standard and premium).
- Clear governance safeguards, including **one vote per corporate entity**.
- Diversification of income beyond individual membership subscriptions.
- Enhanced engagement with institutions in the data governance ecosystem.

Tax Compliance Update: The Society reported that it is addressing prior **tax filing non-compliance**, with efforts underway to:

- Seek waiver of penalties incurred for delayed filings.
- Regularise its tax position with the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA).
- Establish stronger internal compliance systems moving forward.

Institutional Significance: The SGM marked a critical transition in DPGSK's institutional maturity, with a clear focus on:

- Formalising financial and governance structures
- Enhancing compliance and accountability
- Strengthening sustainability through diversified funding
- Positioning the Society for long-term growth and impact

c. 5th December 2025 – End Year get together:

This was a social get-together where members who were in Nairobi met for an end of year networking evening.

5. Secretariat

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

6. Registrar of Societies

DPGSK successfully filed its statutory returns with the Registrar of Societies for the 2023 and 2024 reporting periods, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements. This reinforces the Society's commitment to good governance, transparency, and institutional accountability.

7. 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.

8. Strategic Plan

The table below highlights the Society's progress towards implementing the Strategic Plan 2025 – 2029

Strategic Objective	Planned Focus (Strategic Plan)	Progress (Report Evidence)	Gaps / Shortfalls	Overall Assessment
1. Organisational Foundation	Secretariat, funding diversification, systems, resource centre	- Strategic plan operationalised - Governance strengthened (AGM, SGM, auditors) - Financial stability (surplus, no liabilities)	- No secretariat yet - Over-reliance on membership fees - No clear grants/donor funding - Limited operational systems	 Weak (High Risk)
2. Networks & Collaboration	Partnerships, MOUs, regional/global expansion, platforms	-Strong collaborations (ODPC, Amnesty, CIPIT, regional bodies) - Conferences, webinars, cross-border engagement	- Few formalised MOUs - No structured regional chapters - Weak digital community infrastructure	 Strong
3. Professional Growth & Ethics	Certification, CPDs, ethical framework, training systems	- Extensive CPDs/webinars - Mentorship programmes - Research outputs (survey, ODPC report) - Academic conference	- No certification/accreditation system - No ethical enforcement framework - Limited structured training programmes	 Moderate (Developing)
4. Policy Advocacy & Awareness	Policy reform, public awareness, litigation, campaigns	- Active litigation (multiple petitions) - Policy input (DPA review, Agriculture Bill) - ODPC engagement (town halls) - Thought leadership outputs	- Limited mass public campaigns - No structured advocacy pipeline - Weak media strategy	 Very Strong (Leading Area)

5. Member Empowerment & Welfare	Mentorship, leadership, welfare support, engagement	• Mentorship and volunteer engagement • Student engagement (essay competition, chapters) • CPD participation	• Low conversion (900 vs 249 paid) • No structured welfare or career system	 Weak (High Risk)
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Summary

What is working

- Policy advocacy and litigation leadership
- Partnerships and ecosystem positioning
- CPD and knowledge outputs

What is developing

- Member engagement (but not monetised)
- Professional development systems (not structured)
- Regional collaboration (not institutionalised)

What is lagging

- Secretariat and institutional structure
- Funding diversification
- Membership conversion and value proposition
- Ethical and certification frameworks

9. Review of the Data Protection Act

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 the following Petitions:

- a. **Petition E647 of 2024 – Katiba Institute v Communication Authority & 2 Others:** In *Petition E647 of 2024, Katiba Institute v Communication Authority & 2 Others*, the petitioner challenged government directives requiring the disclosure and registration of mobile device IMEI numbers with the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and the Communications Authority before such devices could connect to local networks. The matter was handled by Advocate Mutua Mutuku. Judgment was delivered by Justice Chacha Mwita on 18 July 2025, dismissing the petition. An appeal has been filed.
- b. **Petition E010 of 2025 – Arunda v Office of the Data Protection Commissioner & Another:** In *Petition E010 of 2025, Arunda v Office of the Data Protection Commissioner & Another*, the petitioner challenged the constitutionality of Section 56 of the Data Protection Act, 2019, as well as Regulation 14(5) of the Data Protection (Complaints Handling and Enforcement Procedures) Regulations, 2021. The matter was conducted by Advocate Mwangi Munga. Judgment was delivered by Justice Bahati Mwamuye on 12 August 2025, dismissing the petition. An appeal has also been lodged.
- c. **Petition E513 of 2024 – Okiya Omtatah Okiiti & Others v CS Ministry of Health & Others:** In *Petition E513 of 2024, Okiya Omtatah Okiiti & Others v Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health & Others*, the petitioners challenge the rollout of the Integrated Healthcare Information Technology System (IHITS) and the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF). The matter is being handled by Advocate Mutua Mutuku. Submissions were highlighted on 19 January 2026, and judgment was rendered. An appeal has been lodged.
- d. **Petition E459 of 2019 – Okiya Omtatah Okiiti v Speaker of the National Assembly:** In *Petition E459 of 2019, Okiya Omtatah Okiiti v Speaker of the National Assembly*, the petitioner challenges the existence and legality of the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner. The matter is being handled by Advocate Mwangi Munga. The case is currently awaiting re-allocation to a new Judge following the elevation of Justice Chacha Mwita to the Court of Appeal.
- e. **Petition E809 of 2025 – Consumer Federation of Kenya v Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Others:** In *Petition E809 of 2025, Consumer Federation of Kenya v Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Others*, the petitioner challenges the validity of the

Kenya–United States of America Health Data Collaborative Agreement Framework. The matter is being handled by Advocate Mutua Mutuku. The three petitions E816 (Okiya), E809 (COFEK) and E025 /2026 (LSK)- KENYA-USA HEALTH DATA COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT FRAMEWORK were consolidated and E816 (OKIYA) will be the lead file.

- f. **Petition E816 of 2025 – Okiya Omtatah Okiiti v Prime Cabinet Secretary & Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Affairs:** In *Petition E816 of 2025, Okiya Omtatah Okiiti v Prime Cabinet Secretary & Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Affairs*, the petitioner similarly challenges the validity of the Kenya–United States of America Health Data Collaborative Agreement Framework. The matter is also being handled by Advocate Mutua Mutuku. The three petitions E816 (Okiya), E809 (COFEK) and E025 /2026 (LSK)- KENYA-USA HEALTH DATA COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT FRAMEWORK were consolidated and E816 (OKIYA) will be the lead file.

11. Engagement with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner

a. Townhalls

During the year, DPGSK convened interactive town hall sessions with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) on **19 August 2025** and **25 February 2026**, providing members with a valuable platform for direct engagement with the regulator.

The sessions focused on emerging trends, regulatory expectations, and practical compliance challenges under the Data Protection Act. Members had the opportunity to seek clarifications on key obligations, including implementation of data protection measures, regulatory guidance, and evolving enforcement priorities.

These engagements fostered open dialogue between the regulator and practitioners, enabling members to share real-world experiences and challenges while gaining practical insights to enhance compliance.

Overall, the town halls strengthened collaboration between DPGSK and ODPC, contributed to greater awareness and capacity building, and reinforced the Society’s role in advancing a robust and trusted data protection ecosystem in Kenya.

b. Mentorship Sessions

- **International Data Transfers 5th August:** DPGSK convened a Mentorship Session with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) on 5 August 2025, focusing on international data transfers. The session provided practical guidance on cross-border data compliance and regulatory expectations under the Data Protection Act.
- **Data Protection Contracts/Agreements:** DPGSK convened a Mentorship Session with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) on 9 September 2025, focusing on data protection contracts and agreements. The session provided practical guidance on drafting,

reviewing, and managing contractual obligations to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act.

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

12. Engagement with the Commission on Administrative Justice (Ombudsman)

Joint Session with CAJ: Balancing Access to Information and the Right to Privacy: DPGSK, in collaboration with the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ), convened a joint session on 21 January 2026 on *Balancing Access to Information and the Right to Privacy*. The session explored the interplay between transparency and privacy rights, highlighting practical approaches to achieving compliance with both legal frameworks.

The Society is in discussions for a cooperation framework with the Ombudsman covering areas of research, mentorship, and capacity building.

13. Proposal on the Institutionalisation and Remuneration of Data Protection Officers in the Public Service

DPGSK is working on a proposal to the Public Service Commission and the Chairperson of the Salaries and Remuneration Commission on the institutionalisation and remuneration of the Data Protection Officer (DPO) function within the public service.

The proposal indicates that the Data Protection Act, Cap 411C, imposes binding obligations on public institutions to ensure lawful processing, protection, and governance of personal data, with DPOs serving as key accountability officers. It notes that although many institutions have designated DPOs, the role is frequently assigned as an additional responsibility without formal recognition, structured support, or remuneration. DPGSK therefore recommends the formal recognition of the DPO function within public service human resource structures, establishment of a job-related Data Protection Allowance, development of competency and performance standards, and stronger accountability mechanisms to enhance compliance across public institutions.

15. One on One Mentorship

The Society has restructured its One-on-One Mentorship Programme to be exclusively available to fully paid-up members. This shift is aimed at strengthening the value proposition of membership, enhancing the quality and commitment within the mentorship process, and ensuring that core professional development benefits are prioritised for active members of the Society.

16. Draft Guidance Note for DPOs

In November 2025, following commitments made during the ODPC–DPGSK Town Hall, the Society developed and submitted a Draft Guidance Note on the Appointment and Role of Data Protection Officers in Kenya to the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC). The draft was

informed by the Data Protection Act and its Regulations, as well as practical challenges raised by practitioners, and sought to promote consistent, sector-agnostic approaches to DPO appointment, positioning, resourcing, and reporting, while inviting ODPC review, refinement, and potential adoption.

17. Report on ODPC Determinations in 2025

DPGSK published a comprehensive report analysing determinations issued by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) in 2025, providing critical insights into Kenya's evolving data protection enforcement landscape.

The report reviewed 96 determined complaints, reflecting a significant increase from previous years and signalling growing public awareness of data protection rights alongside a more assertive regulatory approach. It highlights a clear shift from foundational compliance to structured enforcement, with ODPC placing greater emphasis on accountability, compensation, and enforcement actions.

Key Findings

- Consent, transparency, and data subject rights emerged as the most frequent areas of non-compliance, particularly failures to obtain express consent and to honour erasure and objection requests.
- Data subject rights complaints formed the largest category, indicating operational gaps in how organisations handle access, correction, and opt-out requests.
- The finance and digital lending sector recorded the highest number of complaints, driven by issues such as unauthorized disclosures, aggressive debt collection practices, and poor oversight of third-party agents.
- ODPC adopted a more robust enforcement approach, with the majority of cases resulting in fines, compensation awards, and enforcement notices.

Regulatory and Enforcement Trends

- A move toward stricter evidentiary standards, particularly requiring demonstrable, express consent.
- Increased controller accountability, including liability for actions of agents and processors.
- Greater use of compensation as a remedy for privacy harms, alongside proportional and consistent penalties.
- Emergence of cross-border regulatory cooperation, particularly within the East African region.

- Stronger stance against **obstruction of regulatory processes**, including recommendations for prosecution in serious cases.

Institutional Significance: the report underscores a maturing data protection regime in Kenya, where compliance is increasingly treated as a core governance issue rather than a technical obligation. It provides practical guidance for organisations, policymakers, and practitioners on emerging risks, enforcement expectations, and priority areas for compliance improvement.

This flagship publication reinforces DPGSK’s role in research, policy engagement, and thought leadership, contributing to a deeper understanding of enforcement trends and supporting the development of a more accountable and trusted data protection ecosystem in Kenya.

18. Annual Academic Conference and Research Day

DPGSK organised its inaugural Annual Academic Conference and Research Day, held on 22 October 2025 at Strathmore University, Nairobi, under the theme *“Data Governance in the Public Interest.”*

The Conference brought together stakeholders from academia, government, civil society, and the private sector to exchange insights, strategies, and innovations shaping the future of responsible data governance across Africa.

The event featured lightning talks and presentations selected through a competitive call for papers, highlighting emerging scholarship and practical innovations in the field. Selected contributions are scheduled for publication in a conference book in 2026, ensuring that the knowledge generated informs policy, practice, and research within Kenya and across the continent.

19. DPGSK Litigation Surgery

DPGSK convened a Litigation Surgery on 2–3 September 2025, in partnership with Amnesty International Kenya and Katiba Institute, bringing together practitioners and experts to examine emerging trends in data governance, digital rights, and public interest litigation. The session identified key gaps in regulation, enforcement, litigation strategy, and practitioner capacity, and developed a structured roadmap to strengthen DPGSK’s litigation and advocacy work.

The Litigation Surgery identified the following priority areas for DPGSK:

- Expansion of strategic litigation, including test cases on cross-border data flows, consumer rights, and AI-related harms.
- Strengthening institutional engagement with key actors such as the ODPC, Communications Authority, and Parliament.
- Building practitioner capacity through mentorship, expert networks, and knowledge-sharing platforms.
- Development of a DPGSK Knowledge Hub and case law digest to support evidence-based advocacy.
- Promotion of international alignment, including pursuit of data adequacy and engagement in regional and global policy processes.

Institutional Significance: The Litigation Surgery reaffirmed DPGSK's role as a key actor in shaping Kenya's digital rights jurisprudence and data governance agenda, positioning the Society to drive impactful litigation, policy reform, and professional development.

20. Collaboration Initiatives

a. Amnesty International – Kenya

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

- DPGSK participated in the East Africa Data Governance Conference 2026 (10–11 March), contributing a panel on Data Governance Litigation. The session highlighted emerging jurisprudence, strategic litigation approaches, and the role of legal advocacy in strengthening data governance across the region.
- **Data Governance Cafe- 4th July 2025:** This session focussed on communications surveillance. Participants deeply discussed the Kenya Information and Communications (Amendment) Bill 2025, that was under consideration by Parliament. They concluded that it was a trojan horse for mass surveillance by the State and strategised on resisting the proposed law through memoranda to Parliament as well as advocacy in the media.
- **Data Governance Cafe 21st November 2025:** This session was a continuation of a previous discussion on data protection impact assessments (DPIAs). It was a facilitated discussion on DPIAs as human rights tools and Victor Ndede of Amnesty International Kenya presented research on several public projects whose human rights impacts could have been mitigated by a good DPIA.
- **Data Governance Cafe on 13 March 2026:** The first data governance cafe of the calendar year was on the topic of data and elections. Participants identified human rights risks when data is used for political campaigning. They used the example of recently concluded LSK elections to call for political accountability in data use for elections in professional bodies. They also requested Amnesty International Kenya and DPGSK to organise sessions focussed on national elections and data.
- **Data Protection Guidelines for Civil Society:** DPGSK collaborated with Amnesty International Kenya (AIK) in the development of the Data Protection Guidelines for Civil Society, which were officially launched on 2 October 2025. The guidelines provide practical direction to civil society organisations on compliance with data protection requirements and responsible data governance practices.

b. Kenya Association of Travel Agents

- 28th June 2025 - KATA Conference in Mombasa: DPGSK was represented in panel discussions at the conference.
- **Data Protection awareness workshop for KATA members:** DPGSK conducted a Data Protection Awareness Workshop for KATA members in Nairobi on 28 August 2025, aimed at enhancing understanding of data protection obligations. The session focused on practical compliance requirements and building capacity among industry stakeholders.

c. Data Privacy Lawyers Association of Nigeria

- **Cybersecurity and Data Breach Management in Kenya and Nigeria Webinar:** DPGSK, in collaboration with DPLAN, hosted a webinar on 1 July 2025 on *Cybersecurity and Data Breach Management in Kenya and Nigeria*. The session provided comparative insights on breach response frameworks, regulatory expectations, and practical strategies for managing cybersecurity risks across jurisdiction.

d. Tanzania Privacy Professionals Association

- **Cross-Border Data Transfer in the Financial Sector: Case Studies from Tanzania and Kenya Webinar:** DPGSK collaborated with the Tanzania Privacy Professionals Association to host a webinar on 23 September 2025 on *Cross-Border Data Transfer in the Financial Sector: Case Studies from Tanzania and Kenya*. The session provided comparative insights into regulatory approaches and practical challenges in managing cross-border data flows within the region.

e. Public Relations Society of Kenya

- DPGSK, in collaboration with the Public Relations Society of Kenya (PRSK) and the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC), held a webinar on 4 March 2026. The session focused on advancing data protection awareness and strengthening compliance within the communications and public relations sector

21. Support for the Data Privacy and Governance Student Association

a. Annual Essay Competition

The Society supported the second Annual Essay Competition organized by the Data Privacy Governance Students' Association (DPGSA) of the University of Nairobi. The theme of the competition was "Privacy, Data Protection and Surveillance in the Digital Age".

With over 110 entries submitted, the competition provided an excellent platform for students to explore and analyse the evolving landscape of data protection in Kenya.

Most importantly, we extend our congratulations to the winners of the Essay Competition, **Ayaga Max Liambilah (1st Place)**, **Philip T. Mboya (2nd Place)**, and **Mwaya Teddy Munyao (3rd Place)**.

b. University Chapters

The Society has made tangible progress in strengthening student engagement through the establishment of two active university chapters. These chapters are now operational at the *University of Nairobi* and *Riara University*, providing structured platforms for early-career professionals and students to participate in data privacy and governance initiatives. This development marks an important step toward building a sustainable pipeline of future practitioners and expanding the Society's footprint within academic institutions.

22. 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. Privacy Week 2026

- 26th and 28th January 2026 the Society played an integral role at the Privacy Week Conference in Mombasa, Kenya organised by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner.

b. Continuous professional development

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

- **Data Governance Mentorship Webinar:** DPGSK hosted a Data Governance Mentorship Webinar on 10 June 2025, facilitated by Hiten Pattni, focusing on the basics of data governance. The session provided foundational knowledge to emerging professionals and supported ongoing mentorship and capacity building within the Society's community.
- **Engineering Privacy 101 Webinar:** DPGSK hosted the Engineering Privacy 101 Webinar on 17 July 2025, facilitated by Ben Ngunjiri. The session introduced participants to foundational concepts in privacy engineering and practical approaches to embedding privacy into systems and processes.
- **Data Governance 101: Part 2 Webinar:** DPGSK hosted the Data Governance 101: Part 2 Webinar on 29 July 2025 at 7:00 PM, facilitated by Hiten Pattni. The session built on foundational concepts, providing practical insights into implementing data governance frameworks and strengthening organisational compliance.
- **Data Governance Careers Webinar:** DPGSK hosted a Data Governance Careers Webinar on 12 August 2025, providing insights into career pathways and opportunities within the data governance field. The session guided participants on skills development, professional growth, and navigating the evolving data protection ecosystem.

- **Webinar on DPGSK Annual Survey Report:** DPGSK hosted a Webinar on the Annual Survey Report on Tuesday, 7 October 2025, presenting key findings and trends shaping the data governance profession in Kenya. The session provided insights into workforce dynamics, challenges, and opportunities, fostering discussion on strengthening the data protection ecosystem.
- **In-House DPOs Webinar:** DPGSK hosted the In-House DPOs Webinar on 11 November 2025, focusing on the role and responsibilities of internal Data Protection Officers. The session explored practical challenges, governance structures, and strategies for strengthening organisational compliance.
- **Complainant Experiences with ODPC Webinar:** DPGSK hosted the Complainant Experiences with ODPC Webinar on 18 November 2025, highlighting real-world experiences of individuals engaging with the data protection complaints process. The session provided practical insights into enforcement, remedies, and improving access to data subject rights.
- **Setting up a Data Protection Programme in the Public Sector Webinar:** DPGSK hosted the Setting up a Data Protection Programme in the Public Sector Webinar on 20 November 2025. The session provided practical guidance on establishing and operationalising data protection frameworks within public sector institutions.
- **Kick-Off Webinar: Setting the 2026 Data Privacy and Governance Agenda:** DPGSK hosted the Kick-Off Webinar: Setting the 2026 Data Privacy and Governance Agenda on 15 January 2026, marking the start of the Society's annual programme. The session outlined key priorities, emerging trends, and strategic focus areas for data privacy and governance in the year ahead.
- **Responsible Marketing in a Privacy-First Kenya Webinar:** DPGSK, in collaboration with the Bloggers Association of Kenya, hosted a webinar on 20 January 2026 on *Responsible Marketing in a Privacy-First Kenya*. The session explored ethical marketing practices, compliance with data protection requirements, and the role of digital creators in safeguarding personal data.
- **Comparing Data Protection Compliance in Kenya and Uganda:** DPGSK, in collaboration with AF Mpanga Advocates, hosted a webinar on 11 February 2026 on *Comparing Data Protection Compliance in Kenya and Uganda*. The session provided comparative insights into regulatory frameworks, enforcement approaches, and practical compliance challenges across the two jurisdictions.
- **Unpacking the Artificial Intelligence Bill, 2026 Webinar:** DPGSK hosted a webinar on 25 March 2026 on *Unpacking the Artificial Intelligence Bill, 2026*. The session examined the key provisions of the Bill, highlighting its implications for data governance, regulation, and emerging technology policy in Kenya.

- **Privacy Engineering Part 2 – Beyond Privacy by Design: Engineering Trust in an AI-Driven World Webinar:** on 14 April 2026, DPGSK hosted the webinar “Privacy Engineering Part 2 – Beyond Privacy by Design: Engineering Trust in an AI-Driven World,” which examined practical approaches to embedding privacy, accountability, and trust into AI systems throughout their lifecycle. The session deepened members’ understanding of advanced privacy engineering concepts, highlighting the shift from compliance-driven design toward proactive trust engineering in increasingly complex AI-driven environments.
- **Navigating the Career Path and Responsibilities of Data Protection Officers in Kenya Webinar:** on 23 April 2026, DPGSK hosted the webinar “Navigating the Career Path and Responsibilities of Data Protection Officers in Kenya,” which explored the statutory and practical responsibilities of Data Protection Officers under the Data Protection Act, 2019. The session examined the skills, competencies, ethical expectations, and career progression opportunities for current and aspiring DPOs, while also addressing common workplace challenges and emerging trends shaping the data protection profession in Kenya.

23. Advocacy and policy engagements

- **Draft National Data Governance Policy:** DPGSK actively contributed to the development of the Draft National Data Governance Policy by providing detailed written submissions addressing key data protection and governance considerations. In addition, the Society participated in public participation forums, engaging directly with policymakers and stakeholders to advance a rights-based and accountable data governance framework. These engagements reinforce DPGSK’s role as a key thought leader and contributor in shaping Kenya’s evolving data governance landscape.
- **Draft Digital Agriculture Bill and Policy 2026:** DPGSK submitted comments and technical input on the Draft Digital Agriculture Bill and Policy, 2026, contributing to the development of a rights-based and governance-focused framework. The Society’s engagement emphasised data protection, data governance, and responsible use of agricultural data within Kenya’s digital transformation agenda.
- **Draft Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026:** DPGSK submitted to the Senate comments and technical input on the Artificial Intelligence Bill, 2026, contributing to the development of a rights-based, innovation-enabling, and governance-focused framework. The Society’s engagement emphasised the need for alignment with existing legal frameworks, particularly data protection obligations under the Kenya Data Protection Act while cautioning against premature or fragmented regulation. DPGSK advocated for a balanced approach that supports responsible AI development, strengthens accountability and oversight mechanisms, and safeguards fundamental rights, including privacy, non-discrimination, and transparency within Kenya’s evolving digital ecosystem.

24. Data Protection Officers Survey

During the year, DPGSK published the **Data Governance Professionals Survey Report 2025**, a flagship knowledge product providing insights into the roles, trends, and challenges shaping Kenya's data governance profession.

The survey engaged practitioners across the public sector, private sector, academia, and civil society, offering a comprehensive view of the evolving data protection ecosystem.

Key Insights:

- The profession is rapidly growing but largely early-career, with most Data Protection Officers (DPOs) having less than five years' experience.
- Internal DPO roles dominate (54%), reflecting increasing organisational uptake of in-house compliance functions, while external and hybrid roles demonstrate a flexible and expanding advisory market.
- Strong investment in training is evident, with over 84% of professionals having undertaken data protection training, signalling increasing awareness and capacity development.
- The sector remains interdisciplinary, with legal, technical, and compliance professionals contributing to data governance roles.
- Regulatory enforcement remains limited, with most organisations yet to undergo ODPC audits or penalties, indicating a compliance environment still focused on awareness and gradual implementation.

Key Challenges Identified

- Organisations face persistent challenges in conducting DPIAs, managing data retention, ensuring valid consent, and responding to breaches.
- Structural barriers include limited resources, weak privacy culture, insufficient management buy-in, and unclear role definitions for DPOs.
- External practitioners highlighted challenges around pricing, standardisation, and client expectations, pointing to the need for clearer professional frameworks.

Institutional Significance: The report highlights a maturing but still developing profession, underscoring the need for greater standardisation, capacity building, and institutional support. It provides an evidence base to inform policy development, professional training, and advocacy efforts, while strengthening DPGSK's role as a thought leader in Kenya's data governance ecosystem.

25. Digital Presence

DPGSK continued to strengthen its digital presence and public influence through a growing multi-platform engagement strategy across LinkedIn, Instagram, X, and its official website, www.dataprivacyke.africa.

Through LinkedIn, under the handle **Data Governance Pros Kenya**, the Society positioned itself as a leading voice on data protection, privacy, AI governance, and emerging digital policy issues by publishing timely legal insights, event updates, regulatory analysis, and thought leadership content that reached professionals in Kenya and beyond.

On Instagram (**DPGSK_Kenya**), the Society expanded awareness through visual storytelling, member engagement, and promotion of key activities, helping to attract younger professionals and new audiences into the data governance conversation.

On X (**@datagovproske**), DPGSK maintained an active real-time presence by sharing updates on legislative developments, court decisions, regulatory actions, and live commentary during sector events.

The Society's website, www.dataprivacyke.africa, served as a central information hub for publications, announcements, programmes, and institutional visibility.

Collectively, these platforms enhanced the Society's reach, deepened stakeholder engagement, amplified advocacy efforts, and reinforced DPGSK's position as a trusted and influential community in the digital governance ecosystem., court decisions, regulatory actions, and live commentary during sector events.

26. Member volunteers

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

27. Looking ahead

- **Membership Growth:** The Committee will continue to implement targeted initiatives aimed at expanding the Society's membership and strengthening member engagement.
- **Secretariat Establishment:** Subject to availability of resources, the Society will prioritise the establishment of a formal secretariat to enhance operational efficiency and institutional capacity.
- **Sector Engagement:** The Committee will enhance sector-based meetings to deepen specialised dialogue and member participation across industries.
- **Continuous Professional Development (CPD):** The Society will maintain a structured programme of monthly CPD webinars, delivered in collaboration with members and

external partners, focusing on emerging issues, technologies, and practical application of data protection and governance frameworks.

- **Collaborations and Partnerships:** The Committee will actively foster strategic collaborations with members and stakeholders to advance data privacy and governance initiatives.

