

The East African Privacy

Stay Informed, Stay Compliant!



(L-R) Luke Kamoga and Aziz Kitaka, members of Adlegal International; Deo Kalkumutima, Managing Partner, Kalkumutima & Co Advocates; Babatunde Irukera, former Vice Chairman/CEO of Nigeria's Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC); and Patience Ayesigye and Nicholas Murene, members of Adlegal International.

Data Protection and Consumer-Law Practitioners from Around the World Convene in Kampala for the BTA Summit

The inaugural Africa Big Tech Accountability (BTA) Summit, convened by Adlegal International, brought together data-protection and consumer-law practitioners, civil-society representatives, innovators and media professionals to address the growing challenges posed by technology giants. The Summit took place from **30 to 31 July 2026** at Fairway Hotel in Kampala, Uganda, under the theme "Big Tech, Data Governance, and Competition Policy in Africa's Digital Economy". Dr Olumide Babalola, Chairperson of the Data Privacy Lawyers Association of Nigeria, delivered the keynote address on Day One.

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From the Editors

Welcome to the fourth issue of *The East African Privacy Monthly* – your regional guide to data-protection and privacy developments. July 2026 was notably active across the region and beyond. The inaugural Africa Big Tech Accountability Summit convened in Kampala, Uganda's data-protection regulator issued a landmark ruling, and the global stage saw major legislative developments from France to the European Union. We are pleased to unpack these developments in this issue.

Stay Informed. Stay Compliant.

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In his keynote address, Dr. Babalola highlighted significant enforcement gaps in many within majority of African data protection frameworks and called for mandatory in-country representation by Big Tech companies as a prerequisite for operating in African markets. That recommendation, among others, generated and drew considerable discussion among delegates and is expected to feature in the Summit's published outcomes.

Day One featured speakers from Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa. Dr. Babalola received an award from the Africa Centre for Law and Public Interest Technology in recognition of his excellence in data protection and privacy litigation. Other awardees included Dr. Vellah Kigwuru and Jeremy Andre, among others.

The Day Two keynote address on competition and consumer rights was delivered by Babatunde Irukera, Nigeria's Former Vice Chairman/CEO of Nigeria's Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC).



PICTORIAL: Dr. Olumide Babalola delivering his keynote address on Day One of the Summit.

Partners that supported the hybrid event included; Data Privacy Lawyers Association of Nigeria (DPLAN), the Africa Centre for Law and Public Interest Technology, Diamond Advocates, C. R.CR Amanyia Advocates, the Africa Digital Competition Forum, Digital Law Hub, Kirunda & Co Advocates, Alba Advocates, Kalikumutima & Co Advocates, the East African Community Competition Authority, the Africa Digital Rights Hub, the Africa Competition and Consumer Protection Centre, and DPO Privacy Centre (East Africa), among others.

Uganda

Data Protection Regulator Issues First Decision Involving an Entity as a Complainant.

On 29th July 2026, Uganda's data-protection regulator, Data Protection Regulator, the Personal Data Protection Office (PDPO), issued its first decision involving an entity as a complainant. In the complaint between Kuku Foods (Uganda) Limited t/a KFC v the Uganda Revenue Authority, (URA), the PDPO found that the Uganda Revenue Authority's collection and processing of personal data during a tax investigation did not violate the Data Protection and Privacy Act.

The PDPO held that it has jurisdiction to determine whether a public body's collection and processing of personal data complies with the principles of lawfulness, minimisation, necessity and transparency principles under the Act, even where that processing occurred in the exercise of a statutory tax power. It further held that it however has no jurisdiction over the merits, validity or propriety of the underlying tax investigation itself, which fall within the tax-dispute mechanisms machinery under the Tax Procedures Code Act.

The PDPO also found that the URA's search and seizure, including the imaging of nine computers, was lawful, pursuant to Section 48 of the Tax Procedures Code Act and Sections 7(2) and 12 of the Data Protection and Privacy Act, especially since, the contested process had several adequate forensic safeguards, and was accompanied by a level of disclosure sufficient disclosure which satisfactorily met the transparency principle, notwithstanding that greater specificity could have been provided.

The PDPO further found that the allegations of excessive collection, bad faith, and coercion were unsubstantiated and the complaint was accordingly dismissed with non-binding recommendations on continued data minimisation and retention.

High Court Finds Newspaper Outlet Liable For Data Protection Violation.

On 25th June 2026, the High Court of Uganda issued its decision in **Silver Kayondo v Monitor Publications & Others, Civil Suit No. 222 of 2024**. The Court held that publishing the plaintiff's name, title and nationality in the Monitor Publications' print media, e-newspapers and digital services without his consent amounted to processing of the plaintiff's personal data without his consent. The matter, which was heard ex-parte, has attracted criticism from data-protection practitioners and personalities from the media-sector representatives and raised concerns about media reporting and the handling of personal data under the Data Protection and Privacy legal regime in Uganda.

Whatsapp Complies with Data Protection Regulator's Corrective Orders

Following a decision issued by the Personal Data Protection Office (PDPO) earlier this year in a complaint brought by Adlegal International against Whatsapp LLC and Meta Platforms, Inc, where the two were found to be in contravention with Uganda's data protection framework in a number of ways. As a result, the PDPO issued various corrective orders including implementing key accountability assessments and having a Uganda specific privacy notice. By a letter dated 17th July 2026, the PDPO confirmed that Whatsapp LLC had implemented the required corrective measures with the prescribed timelines. Baker Birikujja, the National Personal Data Protection Director, publicly confirmed the compliance at the BTA Summit, describing it as a key milestone in demonstrating that African data protection regulators can secure meaningful accountability from global technology platforms.

Kenya

Data Protection Regulator Releases New Guidance Notes.

Kenya's Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) has released more guidance notes to guide data protection compliance within the country. The guidance notes issued include those covering the transport sector, data protection policies, data protection officers. Additionally, the ODPC has released draft guidance notes on Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technology and Privacy Enhancing Technologies which are open for public comment until 17th August 2026.

Kenya Publishes Its Virtual Asset Service Providers Regulations.

Following the Virtual Assets Service Providers Act in November 2025, Kenya has published the regulations activating the Act. The Regulations establish a comprehensive framework for licensing and regulating virtual asset service providers, including requirements relating to data protection and privacy policies, cybersecurity strategies, audits and incident reporting, consumer information and privacy notices, secure record-keeping and transaction audit trails, business continuity and incident-response planning, confidentiality and safeguarding of consumer information, governance of outsourcing arrangements and protection and safekeeping of consumers' virtual assets

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) is included in the Virtual Asset Service Providers Coordination Forum.

High Court Holds That Data Protection Disputes Must First Be Resolved Through Available Channels

Kenya's High Court considered a petition in *Tetee v Leitch alias General Chepkuley alias Gen Chepkuley, Petition No. 022 of 2025* considered a petition arising from the alleged publication of the Petitioner's photograph and private telephone number on Facebook without her consent. The Petitioner alleged that the disclosure exposed her to unwanted calls and messages and violated her rights to privacy, dignity and security. The Court affirmed that the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) is the primary statutory forum for complaints concerning the unauthorised processing or disclosure of personal data and parties are required to use and exhaust the specialised statutory mechanisms available before approaching the High Court through a constitutional petition. Where a dispute can be adequately resolved under an existing statute, the doctrine of constitutional avoidance may prevent the Court from determining it as a constitutional claim.

The Court struck out the petition as premature because the Petitioner had not demonstrated that the available statutory and administrative remedies had been exhausted or were inadequate, ineffective or unavailable.

Across Africa

Nigeria

PrivCon2026 Is Taking Shape With the Event Coming Closer

PrivCon is Nigeria's leading annual privacy conference, convened to bring together stakeholders from across the data protection and privacy ecosystem. Now in its fourth edition, the hybrid event is organized by Olumide Babalola LLP under the theme "Privacy Architecture: Every Block Counts". It will take place on 1st September 2026 at the Civic Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Confirmed discussions spans children's online privacy safety, SIM deactivation and reassignment, privacy in public spaces, electoral accountability, open banking, and related data protection risks. Speakers have been announced from across technology, law, banking, telecommunications, civil society, and academia.

Global Privacy Watch

France

France Becomes First EU Member State to Approve Children's Social Media Ban

On 21st July 2026, the French Parliament approved a legislation blocking minors under age 15 from accessing social media platforms. This ban marks the first to be approved among EU member states with other governments still working through proposals. Under this legislation, platforms will be required to verify users' ages and prevent and prevent underage users from creating accounts beginning 1st September. Additionally, platforms will be

expected to ban the current accounts of those under age 15 by 1st January 2027. The law also bans mobile phone use in schools. It is aimed at protecting minors from addictive algorithms, inappropriate content and online harms. However, Parliament removed the age-verification enforcement mechanism from the final text, leaving the EU's Digital Services Act as the primary enforcement tool. The legislation has been referred to France's Constitutional Council by left-wing lawmakers who argue the blanket ban infringes minor's freedom of expression. The Council is expected to rule before the September 1st implementation date. The law follows similar measures in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Thailand

Thailand Strengthens Online Enforcement Framework

Thailand's Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (MDES) has issued a new Notification establishing an expedited process for requesting court orders to suspend the dissemination of, or remove, unlawful computer data from computer systems in urgent cases. This introduces a fast-track

mechanism for urgent online content removal and aims to address illegal or harmful online content that may affect public order, national security, the economy, public safety, or other protected interests. It also covers various categories of unlawful content, including gambling, prohibited goods and services, and other content prescribed by law.

The Notification reflects Thailand's continued efforts to strengthen digital governance and equip authorities to respond more efficiently to serious online harms.

European Union

European Data Protection Board Releases Draft Guidelines on Anonymisation of Personal Data

On 7th July 2026, the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) published the long-awaited draft Guidelines 02/2026 on the anonymization of personal data, making the first update to European anonymization guidance in over a decade. The previous reference point, the Article 29 Working

Party's Opinion 05/2014, predated the GDPR, major case law, and the rise of AI-driven re-identification techniques. Generally, the GDPR does not apply to truly anonymized information. However, determining when data meets that threshold has remained legally uncertain. The Guidelines adopt a 'relative' approach to identifiability, meaning that some dataset may be considered personal data in the hands of one party and anonymous in the hands of another, depending on what each party can realistically do with it. The EDPB sets out three criteria for assessing anonymization: no singling (isolation), no linkability, and no inference. The Guidelines are open to public consultation until 30th October 2026. The guidelines are particularly significant for organisations using data for AI training, research, and data-sharing purposes, and for any entity that currently relies on anonymization as a basis for processing outside the GDPR. Counts". It will take place on 1st September 2026 at the Civic Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos. Confirmed discussions spans children's online privacy safety, SIM deactivation and reassignment, privacy in public spaces, electoral accountability, open banking, and related data protection risks. Speakers have been announced from across technology, law, banking, telecommunications, civil society, and academia.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every time you click 'I Agree' on a terms and conditions or privacy policy, you are almost certainly doing so without reading it, and you are not alone.

A Deloitte survey found that 91% of people consent to legal terms without reading them. Among those aged 18 to 34, the figure rises to 97%. Researchers have estimated that reading every privacy policy an average internet user encounters in a year would take 76 full working days. Yet, buried in those unread pages are the permissions companies use to collect, share, and sell your personal data. The law grants you rights. The small print quietly asks you to waive them.



About DPO Privacy Centre (East Africa)

DPO Privacy Centre (East Africa) is a regional hub supporting Data Protection Officers, legal practitioners, and organisations across East Africa in navigating data privacy compliance. We provide training, advisory services, including outsourced DPO services, policy advocacy, awareness, and publications such as this newsletter to foster a culture of privacy in the region. Our aim is to lead and enrich privacy discussions across East Africa.

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