

**LAUNCH OF DATA PROTECTION AND
PRIVACY PORTAL**

REMARKS

BY

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PERMANENT SECRETARY,

MINISTRY OF ICT AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE

Honourable Minister,

The Chairman, NITA-U Board of Directors,

**Executive Director – NITA-U,
National Personal Data Protection Director – PDPO,
Digital Country Lead – UNCDF,
Participants, Invited guests,
Members of the press,
Ladies and gentlemen.**

I warmly welcome you all to this launch of the data protection and privacy portal and I congratulate the Personal Data Protection Office on this momentous occasion. I take this opportunity to appreciate United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) for the support rendered toward the development of the portal.

I also congratulate Uganda for being the first country in East Africa to enact a data protection and privacy law. I am pleased to inform you that this trailblazing has continued with the country being the first in the region to automate the registration process which has resulted in 338 data controllers, data processors and data collectors registered as of today. This launch will make the rest of the portal available to the public particularly, by providing convenient avenues, such as the portal itself and SMS/USSD through which individuals may file their complaints if they are concerned that their personal data protection rights have not been respected and have not managed to resolve the matter with the organisation involved.

There are compelling benefits from complying with the Data Protection and Privacy Act with the major one being that responsible and fair use of personal data fuels the Fourth Industrial Revolution which the Ministry is championing through development of policies and frameworks on the same with other UN agencies, such as the UN Global Pulse. Further, enacting and implementing the Data Protection and Privacy Act also opens up business opportunities for our nascent Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry because organizations worldwide prefer working with organizations that have strong personal data protection and privacy policies and countries with strong data protection and privacy laws.

I am alive to the fact that for this to happen on a wider scale, we need to create more awareness on the law and how it helps the digital ecosystem and the citizen. I am therefore pleased to further inform you that the Ministry will avail to the Office the use of the available Government broadcast media/platforms to further this awareness drive. This will be in addition to the awareness campaign launched today as announced by the National Personal Data Protection Director.

As you are all aware, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) collect a lot of personal data from citizens and other residents in Uganda for provision of various Government services. It is therefore imperative that public bodies take compliance with the Act seriously. I have recently signed a circular requiring all Accounting Officers of Government MDAs to comply with the law starting with registering their respective entities with the Personal Data Protection Office. In this way, Government will walk the talk in relation to compliance with the Data Protection and Privacy Act.

Before I wind up my remarks, I wish to recognize and applaud other stakeholders for their invaluable contributions towards the successful launch of the data protection and privacy portal, such as Uganda Media Centre and the journalists from the various media houses.

With these few remarks, I would like to invite the Honorable Minister of ICT and National Guidance, Hon Dr. Chris Baryomunsi to deliver his remarks and thereafter officially close this event.

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