



Cyberlaw and Data Protection in Southern Africa: An Ethnographic Study in Ethiopia 2007

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Abstract

Cyberlaw and data protection have become increasingly important in public procurement processes across Southern Africa, reflecting evolving legal frameworks to safeguard digital transactions. The research employs an interpretative qualitative approach, involving participant observation, semi-structured interviews with key informants from government agencies, private sector entities, and civil society organizations. Data collection was conducted over a period of six months, capturing various aspects of cyberlaw application in public procurement processes. Findings indicate that while there is a growing awareness about the importance of data protection laws among stakeholders, adherence to these frameworks remains inconsistent, particularly regarding accountability mechanisms and enforcement strategies. The study underscores the need for enhanced training programmes for public officials on cyberlaw and data protection principles and improved oversight mechanisms to ensure compliance with legal requirements in public procurement activities. Policy recommendations include strengthening institutional capacity building, enhancing transparency through regular audits of public sector digital transactions, and promoting stakeholder engagement in policy development processes.

Keywords: *African geography, cyberlaw, data protection, ethnography, jurisprudence, legal anthropology, Southern Africa*

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