



Cyberlaw and Data Protection Dynamics in Southern Africa: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry into Regulatory Frameworks

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Abstract

Cyberlaw and data protection are critical areas of law in Southern Africa, especially as digital technologies continue to transform societal structures. In particular, the Republic of Congo has been grappling with how to balance privacy rights with technological advancements. The methodology involves conducting semi-structured interviews with 20 legal professionals and administering an online survey to 500 tech users. Quantitative data is analysed using descriptive statistics, while thematic analysis is applied to the qualitative interview transcripts. A significant proportion (60%) of respondents reported encountering challenges related to data protection compliance, particularly in relation to consent mechanisms and cross-border data transfers. There was a notable emphasis on legal literacy as an area needing improvement among tech users. The findings highlight the need for more robust training programmes for legal practitioners and enhanced policy guidance for tech users regarding their rights and responsibilities under current frameworks. Recommendations include strengthening enforcement mechanisms, improving public education campaigns about data protection laws, and fostering dialogue between stakeholders to address emerging issues in cyberspace.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, African, Sociolegal, Cross-sectional, Qualitative*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

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