



GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI
Ministry of Information

INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT DATA PROTECTION BILL, 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Information appointed a Task Force led by the Ministry itself, and comprising the National Registration Bureau, the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority, the Public Private Partnership Commission, the Ministry of Justice and the Law Commission, among others, to draft data protection legislation for the nation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BILL

The Malawi economy is becoming increasingly reliant on digital technologies, and personal data of individuals is increasingly collected, generated, stored and utilized by public and private sector institutions. These institutions use such data for many purposes, including the provision of healthcare, health and other types of insurance, education, banking and financial services, hospitality services, civil registration, voting, immigration, national ID and delivery of social programmes, among others.

It is important to protect such personal data. It can be stolen, lost, disclosed, misused and abused by those who collect, generate, store and utilize it. This can result in identity theft, unwarranted or embarrassing disclosures, loss of information and unwarranted marketing and solicitation.

The Draft Data Protection Bill has been prepared in recognition of the dangers posed to individuals by the unregulated or uncontrolled collection and use of personal data and the critical role that the integrity of data, including personal data, plays in the modernization of our economy. The Bill seeks to provide a comprehensive legislative framework for the protection and security of personal data, consolidate data protection provisions currently found in various Acts of Parliament, and protect the privacy of

individuals without hampering social and economic development in Malawi.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

The Task Force has made available a copy of the Draft Data Protection Bill for download at

<https://www.malawi.gov.mw/index.php/procedure/thuwala/acts#>

Interested persons are hereby invited to submit written comments on the Draft Bill not later than Friday 26th February 2021. The comments can be made by accessing the following link

<https://forms.gle/aJeV2m1ERkphe1cL8>

Written submissions and any inquiries may be directed to:

By email: info@pppc.mw

copy to: ambangombe@pppc.mw

By post/hand delivered:

The Chief Executive Officer
Public Private Partnership Commission
2nd Floor, Livingstone Towers
Glyn Jones Road
P.O. Box 937

Blantyre

Attention: Mr. A. Mbang'ombe

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Interested persons are invited to attend the upcoming virtual workshop wherein the Draft Bill will be presented and questions and comments received and discussed. The virtual workshop will be held on Tuesday the 2nd March 2021 at 10:00 am. Other events may be organised on need basis.

Francis Bisika

Secretary for e-Government