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**AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM)**

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# Africa Regional Forum on Data Governance and Digital Government

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- APRM- NAMIBIA
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# Outline

- Namibia National Digital Strategy
- The right to privacy in Namibia
- Namibia's legal framework for digital governance
- Evolution of Cybercrime legislation in Namibia
- Cybersecurity in Namibia
- Legislative challenges and progress
- Update to criminal procedure Act (2023)
- Regional Collaboration
- Cybersecurity and election in Namibia
- Digital Governance and Democratic freedoms
- Conclusion





# Namibia National Digital Strategy

• Namibia's **National Digital Strategy (2024-2028)** is driven by the ambition to harness technology for socio-economic development and improved governance.

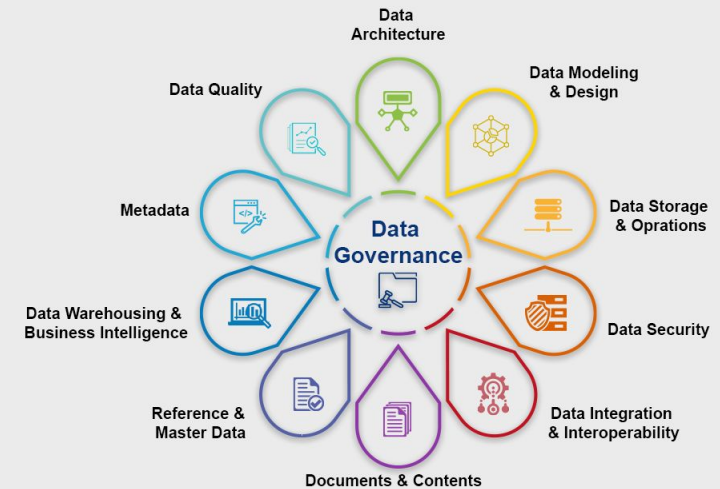
• **Core goals:**

• Achieving **95% broadband coverage** across Namibia, especially in rural and underserved areas.

• **Empowering citizens** through digital literacy, fostering innovation, and creating a digitally inclusive society.



## Data Governance



# The right to privacy in Namibia

- Article 13 of the Namibian Constitution enshrines the right to privacy, ensuring that citizens' personal data is safeguarded unless compelling legal or security reasons exist.
- This underscores the government's commitment to respecting civil liberties while managing digital growth.



# Namibia legal framework for Data Governance

- Data Protection Bill (Pending)
- Electronic Transactions and Cybercrime Act (2019)
- National Broadband Policy (2020)
- Access to Information Act (2022)
- E-Government Strategic Action Plan (2019-2024)
- Cybersecurity Framework





# Cybercrime in Namibia

- Cybersecurity Framework based on the Electronic Transactions and Cybercrime Act 2022
- Cyber Threats:
  - 2.7 million cyber-attacks recorded
  - 7,000 daily attacks targeting both public and private sectors
- National Digital Strategic Plan (2025-2029): Focus on cybersecurity and data protection



# Legislative challenges and progress

- **Electronic Transactions Act (2019):** Passed to address electronic transactions

- **Cybercrime Bill:**

- **Pending:** Focused on cybersecurity but delayed due to concerns over human rights
- **Concerns:** Could enable **mass surveillance** and impact **civil liberties**

- **Communications Act (2009):**

- Regulates **communications infrastructure**
- SIM card registration raises concerns about **state surveillance**





# Update to criminal procedure Act (2023)

- Focus on cybercrime investigations Law:
- enforcement granted powers to intercept communications and access personal data
- Criticism:
- Potential to monitor activists and limit political dissent



# Regional Collaboration

## •African Union Data Policy Framework (2022):

- Promotes **collaboration among African states** on digital governance
- Supports a unified approach to **data rights protection**



# Cybersecurity and election in Namibia

- Elections 2024:
- The Electoral Commission's use of digital platforms to engage youth voters
- Challenges:
- Rise of disinformation campaigns
- Cybersecurity risks, including hacking and data breaches
- Foreign interference through social media platforms





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# Digital Governance and Democratic Freedoms

- Striking a Balance:
- Namibia must continue refining its frameworks to balance national security with individual rights.
- Focus on transparency and open dialogue with civil society



# Conclusion

- Final Thought:
- "Namibia is committed to building a secure digital future—one that balances innovation with protection, and fosters trust while promoting growth."
- Collaboration is key:
- Government, private sector, civil society, and international partners working together.





**I THANK YOU**

