



PRIVACY WINS: Uganda Securities Exchange Faces Prosecution For Flagrant Breach of Privacy

Kampala, July 14th, 2023 - Unwanted Witness Uganda welcomes the latest [investigative report](#) released by the [Personal Data Protection Office](#) (PDPO). The report holds Uganda Securities Exchange accountable for a security breach resulting from the unauthorized disclosure of personal data by a third party, which goes against the provisions of section 35 of the [Data Protection and Privacy Act of 2019](#).

In accordance with the Data Protection and Privacy Act of 2019, the findings from a comprehensive [report](#) consisting of seven pages reveal that Uganda Securities Exchange, along with its technology partner, Soft Edge, have exhibited negligence in the management of personal data, incident response, and change management processes.

As a direct consequence of this negligence, personal data under their possession became vulnerable to exposure resulting from a breach in data security. In light of these circumstances, the Personal Data Protection Office (PDPO) has duly recommended the initiation of legal proceedings against Uganda Securities Exchange, Soft Edge, and their respective accountable representatives. The basis for such prosecution stems from their demonstrated negligence in handling clients' personal data, in direct violation of Section 38 of the aforementioned [Data Protection and Privacy Act, 2019](#).

The aforementioned inquiry ensues subsequent to a [petition](#) lodged by Unwanted Witness to the PDPO on the 18th day of June in the year 2022, pertaining to the breach of data security at the Uganda Securities Exchange and its technology collaborator, Soft Edge Uganda Limited.

As an additional remedy, the regulatory authority has imposed a deadline of three months upon the corporation to rectify all non-compliant aspects delineated within the report, encompassing but not limited to, the obligation to register with the Personal Data Protection Office (PDPO) and guaranteeing the establishment of sound data sharing agreements in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Data Protection Act of 2019.



**UNWANTED
WITNESS**

"Amplifying Voices, Changing lives"

Block 381, Plot No. 26, Nsibambi Village
P.O. Box 71314 Clock Tower K'la

Tel: +256 414 697635

Email: info@unwantedwitness.org

Website: www.unwantedwitness.org

"In acknowledgement of the actions taken by the PDPO in addressing our expressed concerns regarding privacy, we express our commendation for their efforts in upholding the rights of individuals with regard to privacy and dignity. May this serve as a definitive indication to all entities involved in the collection and processing of personal data that the primacy of safeguarding personal data yields substantial commercial advantages," stated Dorothy Mukasa, Executive Director of Unwanted Witness.

She further asserted that these privacy victories serve to emphasize the pivotal function that Civil Society assumes in safeguarding the entitlement to privacy within the constantly expanding realm of technologically advanced society.

Unwanted Witness has once again played a pivotal role in advancing the data protection landscape in Uganda, as their [research](#) and petition have not only supported the statutory mandate of the data protection regulators but also contributed to shaping privacy and data protection policies for the second consecutive time.

The UW research conducted in 2020, titled "[Trading privacy for a cheap transport system](#)," played a crucial role in aiding the [regulator's efforts](#) to uncover privacy shortcomings while using the app commonly known as [SafeBoda](#), thereby highlighting the trade-off between privacy and affordability.

Unwanted Witness is also the convener of the premier annual [Privacy Symposium Africa](#) (PSA), that brings together privacy experts, policymakers, business leaders, and individuals from across the continent to discuss the latest developments and challenges in the field of privacy and data protection in the African context.

For more information contact;

THE UNWANTED WITNESS – Uganda |

P. O. Box 71314 Clock Tower K'la Uganda | Plot 26, Ssentema Road |

Website: www.unwantedwitness.org

Telephone: +256 414 697 635

Email: info@unwantedwitness.org

Twitter: @UnwantedWitness

Facebook: @unwantedwitnessug