

Data Protection Under POPIA



Understanding Data Privacy

Helping municipalities abide by government regulations and industry standards

Sebata is a government-centric technologies company based in Sandton, Johannesburg. We focus on current leading technologies and public policies to incite technology innovation in the municipal space.

Custodians of private information

As an organisation, you are entrusted with sensitive information. Anything from payslips, employment history, contracts, residential details and the like – that is captured and processed – is subject to PoPIA regulation. We help organisations ensure that the data at their disposal is not exploited but handled with the strictest confidentiality.

Approaches to protecting private data

Managing and safeguarding personal information requires organisations to implement processes that identify and secure personal information, including understanding how the data is being used and who has rights to access it.

Compliance: Organisations that work with personal information are subject to laws and regulations that govern personal information; for example, the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPIA).

Security: The amount of digital data available, and the number of people that can access it, is growing exponentially. This trend means attacks targeting personal information have increased in sophistication, scale and frequency. Failing to safeguard the databases that store this information can damage an organisation's reputation, impact business operations and result in regulatory violations.

Personal information refers to anything from payslips, employment history, contracts, residential details, and more

The implementation of POPIA gives municipalities the opportunity to simplify, review and streamline their business operations, policies and processes.

Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPIA)

The Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPIA) is the most comprehensive privacy regulation enacted to date. Its purpose is to "ensure that all South African institutions conduct themselves in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing another entity's personal information." All South African entities – private or public – are impacted.

How PoPIA affects your business

PoPIA came into effect on 1 July 2020; meaning, that all organisations must be compliant by 30 June 2021. Government entities are well advised to start looking at how they acquire, process and store personal information ahead of time. We help organisations to prepare for PoPIA. We explain what it means and provide practical implications of implementing POPIA in your organisation.

Early action is essential. As custodians of personal information, it is vital that organisations understand the serious implications of non-compliance.

Book a compliance workshop

Sebata hosts national workshops in which our industry partners – all experts in their respective fields – provide clarity on what is considered to be personal information as well as offer practical steps towards becoming PoPIA compliant.

Incorporating PoPIA into the daily operations of a business will require educating and training staff, updating business processes and implementing adjusted technology solutions. For example, did you know that under the PoPI Act you could be breaking the law by doing something as simple as forwarding an email with sensitive content or sharing of videos?

Our consultation covers the following focal points:

- Challenges faced by local government in achieving compliance and the practicalities of implementing a PoPIA compliance programme
- How to report data breaches
- How to tackle the wide range of compliance challenges that PoPIA will bring
- The repercussions of not being PoPIA compliant
- Implementing processes and procedures of systems to avoid security risks, such as cybercrime
- Safeguarding data: People; Processes; Technology
- Collecting, recording and storing of personal information
- Complaints processing
- Retention and restriction of records
- Disclosure/ notification