

The Dependencies Government Must Govern

Six publications in Edition 2—four published from 5 to 11 September 2026 and two published 8–30 days earlier—show where public institutions can lose practical control: suppliers, operational records, fiscal exposure and citizens' ability to contest decisions.

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Supplier dependence **Know which functions depend on which models, clouds and jurisdictions.**

Records and recovery **Keep the evidence needed to reconstruct failure, action and override.**

Fiscal exposure **Test how changing work and income alter contributions and services.**

Public scrutiny **Protect the public capacity to weigh evidence and contest administrative claims.**

The finding

Legal authority is not the same as practical control.

The six readings show how technology can leave a public body with formal authority but little practical control. That happens when it cannot replace a supplier, recover after an incident, inspect the evidence behind an automated act or finance the social consequences of economic change.

The publications do not provide a single blueprint for Kenya. Their evidence ranges from company case reports and strategic analysis to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) studies and a structured research review. Together, they identify the records, fallback routes and rights of challenge that a public body must retain when technology enters a public service.

Decision required

Before approval, document every critical external dependency

For any consequential digital service, the approving office should be able to identify the supplier chain, critical interfaces, lawful data basis, access to logs, recovery time, tested fallback, switching rights and the officer authorised to halt use. National standards must also state what counties are expected to operate, finance and recover under actual service conditions.

The same discipline belongs outside technology procurement. Fiscal planning needs to test how unstable earnings and labour-market change affect health and social protection. Education and public information systems need to treat evidence literacy as part of administrative resilience.

Before a supplier becomes indispensable

Four questions to settle before approval.

Which public function depends on an external model, cloud, data source or jurisdiction?

Which evidence would allow the institution to reconstruct an automated act or incident?

What remains operational if the supplier withdraws, fails or changes its terms?

Which named public authority can halt, replace and answer for the arrangement?