

# Malaysia: Data governance profile

## 1. Vision and policy intent

Malaysia's Government aspires to transform Malaysia into a digitally-enabled and technology-driven high income nation, and a regional lead in the digital economy. The Government is planning to accelerate Malaysia's progress as a technologically-advanced economy through the [Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint](#). The Blueprint has the following three guiding principles:

- i. **Inclusivity** - to ensure nobody is left behind as a result of digitalisation.;
- ii. **Ethics** - to ensure that data and digital tools are used in an ethical manner; and
- iii. **Trust** - to ensure the growth of the digital economy, without compromising privacy and cyber security.

## 2. Data Management: policies, rules & institutions

Malaysia has established a new [National Statistics and Data Council](#) (MSDN) as the country's highest national data and analysis advisory body. It provides guidelines to strengthen data governance and cohesion among government data assets and is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister with the participation of the Chief Statistician.

Malaysia has also established State Councils of Statistics and Data (MSDNgW) and District Councils of Statistics and Data (MSDD). The Public Sector Data Sharing Policy (DPDSA) by the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation & Management Planning Unit (MAMPU) promotes secure and effective data sharing among public sector agencies, emphasizing compliance with data sharing principles and a secure data sharing ecosystem.

## 3. Data custodians and data stewardship

The [Department of Statistics Malaysia](#) (DOSM) is Malaysia's primary agency for collecting, interpreting, and disseminating official statistics and operates under the Statistics Act 1965 (Revised 1989) and the Census Act 1960. The legislation is being revised to strengthen availability and coordination of national data, streamlined under one agency.

DOSM is establishing a data governance and stewardship framework for the national statistical system which will be underpinned by adherence to international statistical standards including quality assurance through the UN Generic National Quality Assurance Framework Manual and has adopted the Generic Statistical Business Process Model. It has designated Chief Data Officers to work in govt agencies and at State and District levels to strengthen data practices.

DOSM's [Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#) sets out their strategy.

## 4. Data sharing, accessibility and integration

One of the areas of the Digital Economy Blueprint focuses on enhancing data sharing for data-driven policymaking, particularly through the Open Data Initiative launched in 2014. This initiative encourages data sharing across public and private sectors to boost transparency and citizen-centric service delivery, fostering digital economy growth. DOSM contributes by offering datasets and metadata through [the OpenDOSM](#) NextGen platform, which was launched in 2023.

It promotes data access and usage through user-friendly dashboards. DOSM safeguards data with relevant acts like the Statistics Act 1965 and partners with govt and private agencies. DOSM has developed a Statistics Data Warehouse to facilitate data storage, retrieval and processing and has enabled DOSM to become the central data repository platform for other govt agencies. It has been integrated with DOSM's Population Census System (MyIPCS). DOSM has also developed a [Stats Geoportal](#) providing access to geospatial data and has developed its data science and a [National Big Data Analytics Center](#) to enhance data-driven policies and cyber security.

## 5. Data sharing risks & mitigation

The government prioritizes ethical data use, with a commitment to personal data protection and privacy under the [Personal Data Protection Act 2010](#), regulating companies handling personal data in commercial transactions. These initiatives reflect Malaysia's dedication to modernize its data management and ensure responsible data practices.

DOSM has a Micro Data Dissemination Policy, which is referred to during procedures involving the provision of personal and confidential data. To ensure the protection of this data, micro data encryption is employed. Also, to maintain data confidentiality, micro data anonymisation is implemented. Upon approval of the Chief Statistician Malaysia, the requested data will be shared in accordance with the confidentiality agreements between DOSM and the data recipient, as outlined in the Micro Data Dissemination Policy. The data can only be used for the stated purpose in the agreement, and the research report must be submitted to DOSM for future reference.

### Malaysia's Digital Economy Blueprint

