

By Laura Nagaba

The Institute of Risk Management (IRM), in partnership with SoftNet Technologies, Britam and *New Vision*, convened leaders from the Government, finance, technology and governance sectors to discuss the growing opportunities and risks associated with artificial intelligence (AI) in Uganda's institutional landscape.

Held under the IRM-EA Uganda Chapter Executive Risk Engagement forum, the annual dialogue brought together risk professionals, regulators, senior executives and governance practitioners from across Uganda and the East African region.

Hussein Isingoma, the acting internal auditor general, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, emphasised the need for professionals and institutions to develop "fusion skills" that enable people to work effectively with AI instead of competing against it.

"Jobs will mainly be lost by

Organisations urged to embrace AI as a governance and risk issue

those who fail to upskill and adapt to working with AI, while new opportunities will continue to emerge for those who embrace the technology," Isingoma said, adding: "We need to define AI governance frameworks and be aware of the risks."

He urged organisations to stop viewing AI as merely a technological investment and approach it as a business and risk management issue that directly contributes to organisational success and competitive advantage.

The discussions come at a time when Uganda is accelerating its digital transformation agenda through the Fourth National Development Plan, the Digital Uganda Vision and Vision 2040, all of which promote



BETWEEN THE LINES

Organisations have been encouraged to utilise AI as a business and risk management issue that affects their success.

technology-led transformation of public institutions and service delivery.

However, despite the

increasing adoption of AI technologies, Uganda still lacks AI-specific legislation, while existing governance frameworks were not originally designed to address the complexities and fast-changing nature of AI.

ON INTEGRATION, REGULATION

IRM Africa director Joyce Ndirangu stressed the importance of continuous learning and policy integration at the board level, adding that AI risks are evolving daily and require leaders to constantly recalibrate their understanding of the technology.

She said board members and senior leaders must possess the necessary knowledge and skills to oversee AI-related risks, strategy and business planning effectively.

"AI is no longer an emerging risk. It is already here with us, and organisations must prepare leadership structures that can manage it from a long-term strategic perspective," Ndirangu said.

During the discussion, panelists also highlighted the need for Uganda to modernise its risk and regulatory approaches in response to technological change.

Nestá Paul Katende, the founder and chief executive officer of OTIC Foundation, observed that many institutions are still relying on outdated risk models that are limiting effective AI adoption and accountability.

"There is a divide on the regulation side and we need to create assurance mechanisms that demonstrate accountability," he said.

Participants agreed that while AI presents enormous opportunities for efficiency, innovation and economic transformation, trusted adoption will depend on strong governance, accountability and risk-informed leadership.