

The Digital Agenda *Insights*

digital
agenda

SEPTEMBER
2025
ISSUE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Tech Should Serve Not Control

Welcome to The Digital Agenda Insights *monthly newsletter*

The race to digitise humans is on. Every country is now talking about Digital IDs and Central Bank Digital Currencies. Biometrics is the new stamp!

Everything is being sold under the banners of convenience and security.

At the Digital Agenda Forum, while we appreciate innovation, this sudden rush is far from normal. We pause to ask: what are we trading away in this? Beyond the promises of efficiency lies a deeper question:

Could it be that in the name of progress, we are quietly surrendering the very essence of human autonomy and privacy that technology was meant to enhance?

It is a question worth asking, before convenience becomes the new chain.

Our task is not to fear the future, but to scrutinise the forces shaping it. We explore the crossroads where innovation meets integrity; celebrating technologies that uplift human dignity, and challenging those that quietly erode it.

This is not resistance to change but a call for consciousness. As algorithms grow louder and identities become data points, we must decide whose story the digital age will tell – ours, or the machine's.

The future is unfolding in real time. Let's ensure it remains human. If this resonates with you, walk with us.

OUR CORE VALUES



Stewardship



Purpose



Authenticity



Dignity

Lilian Agata Nabwebale

For the Digital Agenda Forum

UGANDA'S NATIONAL ID DATABASE CITED IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Death in Dubai:
#DubaiPortaPotty - BBC
Africa Eye Documentary

By Digital Agenda Forum

A shocking BBC Africa Eye documentary, titled "Death in Dubai: #DubaiPortaPotty" and released on September 15, 2025, uncovered alarming evidence that traffickers are exploiting Uganda's national identification database to recruit and traffic young women.

The investigation centered on the death of Ugandan Monic Karungi in Dubai. While tracing her steps, journalists identified a man known as Umar Bashir, who was allegedly involved in luring Karungi abroad.

Posing as a Ugandan woman seeking work overseas, an undercover journalist contacted Bashir. Without a passport, she was instructed to send her photo and ID card. Shockingly, Bashir was able to retrieve two official identity records for the fictional name provided.



*A screenshot from the Death in Dubai: #DubaiPortaPotty -
BBC Africa Eye Documentary*

According to the documentary, Umar Bashir claimed to have access to the NIRA Register—the database of Uganda's National ID and Registration Authority (NIRA). This sensitive database, containing the demographic and biometric data of all Ugandan citizens, is not supposed to be publicly available.

Much as NIRA released a public statement denying this allegation, this breach suggests that human traffickers have found a way to access and verify official government documents, allowing them to efficiently create fraudulent travel papers and exploit vulnerable individuals. The incident raises serious questions about the security of Uganda's national identification system and its role in facilitating a modern-day slave trade.



UK Prime Minister, Keir Starmer at the Global Progress Action Summit 2025 in London on 26 September 2025

UK REJECTS DIGITAL IDS

Keir Starmer says digital IDs will be mandatory to work in the UK

By Digital Agenda Forum

At the Global Progress Action Summit 2025 in London on 26 September, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced plans for a mandatory digital ID system. Under the new scheme, anyone seeking to work legally in the UK must have a digital ID. In his announcement, Starmer emphasised that this move is aimed at curbing illegal work and making it easier for citizens to access government services.

Unlike the traditional documents UK residents are used to such as passports, driving licences, or national ID numbers, a digital ID is held on your smartphone. It stores your personal information and is used to verify your identity quickly when accessing services like healthcare, childcare, tax records, and more. It is designed to reduce paperwork, speed up processes, and prevent identity fraud.

The government says the digital ID will help fight illegal working by ensuring employers hire only those with verified legal status, simplify access to services so citizens no longer need to juggle multiple IDs and paper documents, enhance

security through advanced encryption and authentication to reduce identity theft, and improve efficiency by streamlining access to government services, saving time and hassle.

However, the announcement has caused a stir. Citizens argue it will invade privacy, exclude those without smartphones, and place too much control in the hands of the government. Centralised digital IDs may be seen as a tool for surveillance. Many see it as unnecessary government overreach.

The UK government plans public consultations to address accessibility and inclusion, drawing lessons from countries like Estonia, Australia, and India, where digital IDs have eased access to services.

So, the question remains: ***Is this really about tackling illegal work and streamlining services, or is it a risking of civil liberties in the process?***



CHECKMATE:

Keir Starmer in the Digital Spotlight

By **Mariagorreti Batenga**, Director at Dopamine Ace Ltd., an incorporator, and a writer

There is something funny about how politicians can take “control”, wrap it up in shiny tech language, and sell it to the public as progress and convenience. That is exactly what is happening in the UK with Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

The UK government has introduced a new digital ID system. On the outside, it looks smart; one app, one card, where everything accessible in just a few clicks. But the more you look into it, the more it becomes clear that this is just a cover up for control. Say something the system flags as “hateful” in a private chat, and you could find yourself facing years in jail. It is a tool to monitor opinions and freedom.

It is sold as a modernization tool,

offering smoother services and protection for citizens. But once linked to digital currency, biometric tracking, and online monitoring, it becomes a leash. No ID, no account. No account, no access. Every detail of your life; salary, travel, medical records, spending can be controlled with a few clicks. Once enforced, the moment you question it or complain, you risk being punished. The system punishes the law-abiding while leaving the real problems untouched.

Keir Starmer claims that these IDs are needed to stop illegal migration, that this

system will probably solve border issues. But this is the same old trick: Create a problem, present your tool of control as the only solution, and punish those who don't comply, painting them as unpatriotic or unwilling to contribute to the 'greater good. The same government that has allowed so many immigrants into the country without documentation, against the will of its citizens, is now forcing those very citizens to obtain another form of identification to solve a problem in which they are the victims.

Interestingly, the very people pushing this digital control narrative and similar ideologies are also at the forefront, preaching freedom, inclusion, and transparency. In reality, they're about control, not service. They set rules for everyone else but break them when it favours them. They loudly promote lifestyles, moral standards, and social agendas for the masses,

all while hiding personal contradictions behind a mask. They fly private jets to climate change conventions, hide their homosexuality behind fake traditional marriages, and the list goes on. If what you push is truly "normal," why hide it? Why not openly embrace it, share all the details, and stand by it? Why get defensive when the spotlight finally shines on you?

Earlier this year, a prophecy was released about a Western leader under an intense spotlight; a moment of exposure. The prophecy also pointed out his involvement in digital, banking, and control programs, and therefore declared a "checkmate" situation. And just as it was said, the very systems he has been fronting of late, from digital IDs to surveillance systems, ended up exposing scandals, and personal issues that might have remained private. The tools intended to control

others turned the spotlight back on him, revealing secrets he had tried to conceal.

Digital IDs, biometric systems, AI, and other "modern conveniences" are coming in very fast. They are being sold as catalysts of progress, efficiency, and inclusion, and they are really tempting. But before rushing to adopt them, first ask, who controls the data? Who can turn it off? What if the same system that helps you today, blocks you tomorrow, what is your plan? Technology is a tool, and tools can be weaponised as long as they are in the hands of people.



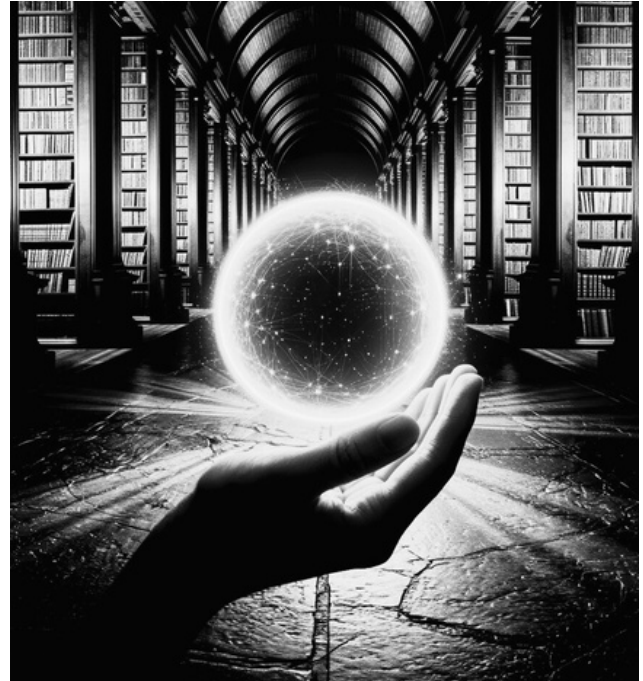
Why Are All Governments in a Rush to Control Humanity via Digital ID and Digital Currencies?

By **Lilian Agaba Nabwebale**,
Information Scientist

In an utterly shocking and totally unprecedented twist, governments everywhere have suddenly discovered a deep, selfless passion for... efficiency. Yes, efficiency. Their brilliant plan to achieve this dreamland is through twin marvels; the Digital ID and Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs). It is a sheer coincidence that the craving for convenience arrives exactly when herding people has gotten a bit trickier than before.

First, there is the urgent need to simplify your life, for your own good, naturally. To save you from deciding which cards to carry and remembering a dozen passwords. Governments, in their infinite mercy, have decided to fix all that. With a Digital ID, every bit of your existence, from birth certificate to parking fines and calculating your child's daycare fees will be neatly packed into one state-managed app.

Cash, of course, is filthy, clumsy, and hard for them to track. Digital currency will make your spending so efficient that your smart fridge could order milk on your behalf before you even know it is finished. If your social credit score dips too low, it might even block certain purchases. Don't worry, it is for your own good.



Next, there's a heartfelt war on crime and carbon. Terrorism, money laundering and your carbon footprint will not escape the digital eye. If you want to drive somewhere outside your approved "15-minute city", sorry, your travel allowance will be politely declined. Planning a cheeky trip to the coast? The system might just reject it to save the planet. The only real crimes left will be state-approved ones, like ignoring insect protein recommendations —bugs and cockroaches. Neat, orderly, and environmentally friendly.

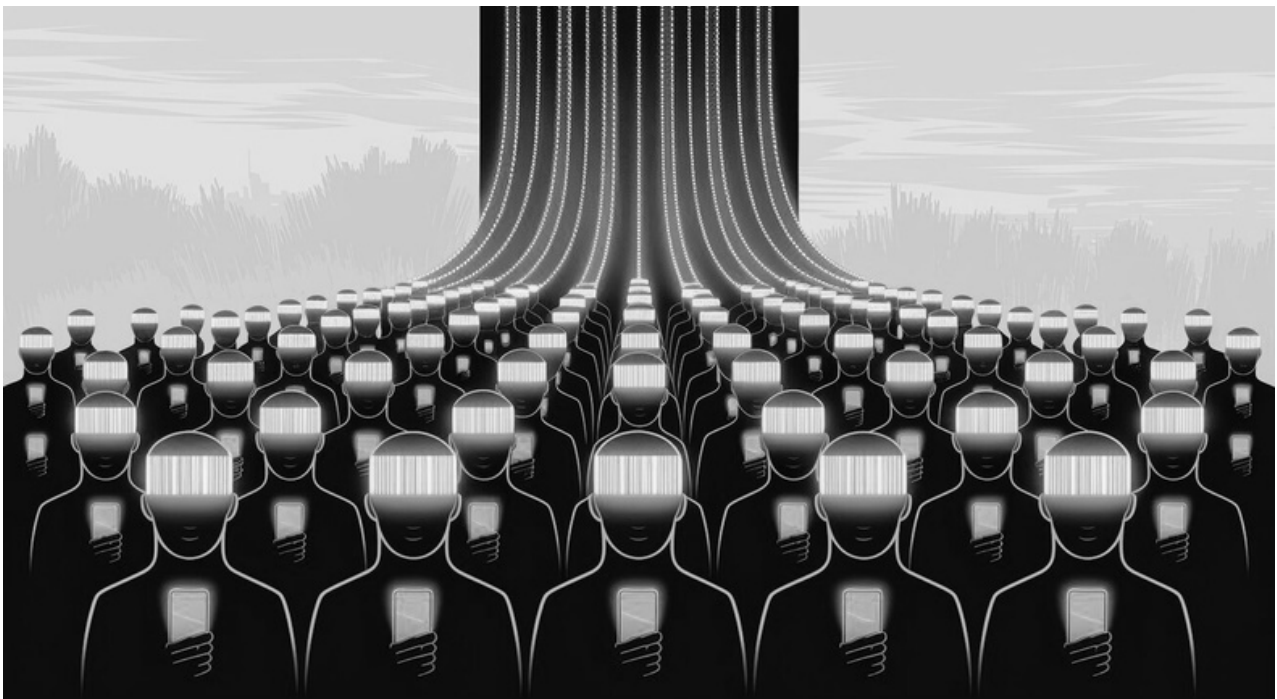
Then comes fairness. Imagine a world

where your access to resources matches your contribution and carbon virtue. Digital currencies can enforce this. Protest a government policy or use a wood-burning stove? Bad luck. Your money may be programmed to prevent “high-emission” purchases. Say something that aligns with your faith and beliefs and you will be banned for misinformation. It is not punishment but a “behavioural nudge,” like a caring, all-seeing parent controlling your pocket money for your own benefit. What could be fairer than rewards for obedience and gentle correction for dissent?

Finally, the rush itself. Why the sudden hurry? Every Government is suddenly launching a centralised citizen registration app of some sort. You can clearly tell a voice of urgency in their tone. As if to depict that if our government doesn’t roll out this soon, we will look hopelessly outdated. It is an unaccountable race to cement control; a healthy competition to see who will be the first to provide the most seamless, inescapable network of digital governance. A clear Olympic Games for technocrats, and the gold medal is your soul, conveniently stored in

the carbon-neutral cloud.

So next time a politician or banker gushes about the “inclusive,” “innovative,” and “green” future of Digital ID and Digital currency, remember their noble sacrifice. They carry the burden of knowing everything about you and controlling your every financial and environmental move, all so you don’t have to worry about the stress of freedom and privacy. A people so obsessed with controlling humanity. To control man, whom God made in His own image! Truly, it is almost funny.





Europe's New Digital Border Entry/Exit System

Facial Recognition is the new stamp!

By Digital Agenda Forum

S Starting 12 October 2025, the EU's Entry/Exit System (EES) will record the movements of non-EU travellers entering or leaving Schengen-area borders. The rollout will be gradual, with full implementation by 10 April 2026.

On your first visit after the system begins, border officers will scan your passport, take a facial photo and fingerprints, and store them in a digital file. On future trips, the EES will simply verify your identity, making the process faster. Travellers with biometric passports can often use self-service kiosks or mobile

pre-registration apps, where available.

The EES replaces manual passport stamping with automated, data-driven control. For travellers, this promises quicker checks after initial enrolment. For authorities, it means better tracking of overstays and stronger border security.

Beyond Europe, the EES reflects a global shift toward biometric identity systems where movement, access, and even citizenship rights are increasingly managed through digital

credentials. It offers convenience, but also raises concerns about privacy, surveillance, and data ownership.

Process by process, the digital chain is being woven.

As nations pursue a broader digital agenda, the question remains: How much personal data are we willing to trade for speed and security?



WHAT IS A DIGITAL ID?

By Digital Agenda Forum

A digital ID is an electronic version of your identity that streamlines how you prove who you are online and in person.

A digital ID is in three forms:

1. What You Know (Knowledge)

- This is typically a PIN (Personal Identification Number) or a password that you, and only you, should know.
- Example: To activate your digital ID wallet on your phone, you must enter a PIN you created.

2. What You Have (Possession)

- This is the physical or digital object that stores your identity. It could be:
 - A physical smart card (e.g., a national ID card with a chip).
 - Your smartphone with a dedicated app or wallet installed.
- Example: You must have your specific, registered smartphone with you to use the digital ID.

3. Who You Are (Inherence)

- This is a biometric identifier that is unique to your body.
- Example: Using your phone's fingerprint scanner or facial

recognition to unlock and approve the use of your Digital ID.

What is a Government-Issued Digital ID?

A Government-Issued Digital ID is an official, state-verified digital identity that allows citizens to prove who they are online and in person.

What is included in government Digital ID?

It includes Personal Data captured about you and from you into a Government Database. It includes but not limited to;

- Your name, date of birth, place of birth, nationality, photo, and sometimes biometrics such as fingerprints, facial scans, and iris scans.

How is a government Digital ID used?

A simple analogy:

You present your digital ID from your phone to a website. The website checks the digital signature from the government (issuer) to ensure it is authentic, and you use your face, eye or fingerprint (authentication) to unlock it to prove it is yours.

HUMANITY AT A CROSSROADS:

Technology, Responsibility, and
the Future We are Creating

By **Katega Fatihi**, *Information
Scientist*

As human beings, we are naturally drawn to innovation. We love new things, we cherish peace, and we strive for self-control. As thinkers, we are drawn to ease and efficiency. Now, here comes artificial intelligence, a remarkable advancement that reflects the evolution of our collective intellect. Machine learning and intelligent systems offer us immense potential, and if used wisely, they can help us build a more efficient and equitable world.

However, there is an uncomfortable truth we must confront.

While our systems and processes grow more advanced, the individuals we often entrust to manage them appear increasingly unprepared,

unserious, and at times, misaligned with the values that should guide their stewardship. In many parts of the world, those in positions of influence; political, economic, and institutional, serve not the broader population, but the narrow interests of the elite and powerful.

This is the reality we face: a generation surrounded by incredible tools, yet many among them lack the critical thinking, ethical grounding, and patience required to use these tools responsibly. Greed and short-term thinking have become widespread. We see it clearly in education—where students rely heavily on platforms like ChatGPT and other AI

tools to complete assignments and exams, not as aids for research or deeper understanding, but as shortcuts to avoid learning.

This raises a serious concern: these same individuals, shaped by a culture of convenience over curiosity, will eventually be employed to manage sensitive public systems—systems that contain confidential data, critical infrastructure, and national interests. What happens when those entrusted with these responsibilities begin relying on external AI tools without understanding the underlying implications for privacy, sovereignty,



and security?

Is that data truly safe?

Are we, as a society, truly safe?

Have we properly trained and prepared professionals to handle such responsibility?

Are we honest enough with ourselves to hold one another accountable for the consequences of our actions?

More importantly, have we remained human enough to remember that the essence of progress lies not just in innovation, but in integrity?

We must reflect on whether we are fostering a generation that sees technology as a means of coexistence and service, or one that blindly pursues convenience at the cost of meaning, responsibility, and ethical depth.

This is not a rejection of technology—far from it. AI, machine learning, and automation are powerful, necessary components of the world we are building. But they must be accompanied by a deep sense of human responsibility. Systems

should serve people, not the other way around.

It is time to ask ourselves, not just as professionals, but as a global community:

Are we working toward a future where humanity and technology evolve together, or are we accelerating the loss of what makes us human in the first place?

The choice is still ours to make.

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shaping a digital future for all!

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