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Contextual Factors Influencing the Cybersecurity Commitment of Government Institutions in Developing Countries

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The increase in cybersecurity incidents is a growing concern for governments worldwide, especially in developing countries. Government institutions are among the top targets of cyberattacks. To address cybersecurity issues, various tools and frameworks have been developed to assess the level of cybersecurity maturity and commitments. Despite the calls on governments to develop and implement cybersecurity measures, the commitment level of government institutions toward cybersecurity remains inadequate. With the increase in cybersecurity incidents in developing countries, cybersecurity commitment of government institutions is increasingly indispensable in combating cybercrime. The current study considered the contextual factors influencing the ybersecurity commitments of government institutions in developing countries using the Technology, Organisation and Environment (TOE) framework.The study employed a qualitative case approach of government institutions and agencies responsible for cybersecurity activities in Namibia. Through document reviews and semi-structured interviews with 11 participants from five overnment institutions and agencies, the study identified and explained contextual factors influencing the cybersecurity commitments of government institutions. Data was analysed using a thematic analysis technique and the NVivo software. The study found that contextual factors, such as underdeveloped information technology infrastructure, a lack of information technology resources, inadequate support from top management, financial resources, a lack of cybersecurity skills and competencies, a lack of cybersecurity legal frameworks, and perceived cyber threats and attacks, affect cybersecurity commitment of government institutions.

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