

PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION IN SMART CITIES

A smart city aims at the effective integration of physical, digital and human systems in the built environment to deliver a sustainable, prosperous and inclusive future for its citizens. Now that many smart systems have been implemented, security and privacy issues have become a major challenge that requires effective countermeasures.

I appeal that we erase the misconception that the Data Privacy Act or the National Privacy Commission as regulator is a speedbump, if not a roadblock, to innovation and digital change.

Adherence to the data privacy principles shows accountability and builds trust. Trust of Data Subjects is paramount to gain support, support by all constituents is essential sustaining smart cities.

The Commission thru the leadership of Atty. John Henry Du Naga, commits to work in building trust among data subjects, support and promote projects of Local Governments who upholds data subject rights. The Commission, starting this year will strengthen privacy compliance programs to steer cities & municipalities towards data privacy compliance and accountability.

It is necessary to be aware of security and privacy threats when designing and implementing new mechanisms or systems. The Commission stresses the importance of the Privacy by Design or Privacy by Default approach specifically in the development of data processing systems.

The creation of these smart applications may also pose numerous security and privacy problems due to the vulnerabilities commonly existing in each layer of a smart system. It is very important that our LGUs who are in the process or is focused on building this technology driven cities ensure the protection of personal and sensitive personal information they process.

The first step is to create, thru local legislation, an office or department focused on ensuring data privacy and information security. The LGUs Privacy Team will be headed by a Data Protection Officer or DPO. Registration of DPO and Data Processing Systems with the Commission is required by law.

Second is for LGUs through this created office implement a Privacy Management Program where there is a regular conduct of Privacy Impact Assessments on data processing systems to mitigate risks in the processing of personal information.

Finally, is to ensure readiness in case of security incidents or personal data breaches. As technology is ever changing so is the risk, for the unavoidable, a response team dedicated to minimizing the impact of security incidents is required.

The widespread use of smart applications has caused many security and privacy issues. The development of more advanced protection models and frameworks is important, thus the Commission is geared and focused in ensuring the protection ng datos ni Juan at Juanna.