



Foundation for
Media Alternatives

Privacy, Contact Tracing Apps, and the Philippines

Jam Jacob

Contact Tracing Apps in the Philippine Context



LIST: Coronavirus contact tracing apps in the Philippines

APRIL 14, 2020

GELO GONZALES



Availability of a number of contact tracing apps

<https://rappler.com/technology/features/coronavirus-contact-tracing-apps-philippines>

APPLICATION

COVID-19 UPDATES

GOVERNMENT

Trust issues in gov't contact-tracing app

by **Elly Dela Torre**
2 months ago

 187 Views



There is an issue of trust with the widespread adoption of the government's official contact tracing app, StaySafe.ph.



Multisys Technologies Corp CEO to grow its user base. Only about 10% of the population have registered to the app.



APPS AND SOFTWARES



StaySafe.ph developer: Trust issues hound contact tracing app

By: **Miguel R. Camus - Reporter** / @miguelrcamusINQ Philippine Daily Inquirer / 09:55 PM June 16, 2020

Trust issues are impeding the widespread adoption of the government's official contact tracing app, known as StaySafe.ph, its private sector developer claimed.

Poor adoption by the population + Mixed Feelings

PH APP DEVELOPERS FIGHT COVID-19 WITH ONLINE INNOVATIONS

 [PRINT](#)

Written by DOST | Published: 28 April 2020 | Hits: 10411

Filipino innovators are making the adage “necessity is the mother of invention” into reality.

The Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) acknowledges innovative Filipinos who have come up with brilliant technologies to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

Featuring personalize contact tracing, health assessment and monitoring, and community monitoring - these initiatives showcase the ingenuity and talent of Filipinos online innovators in fighting the global pandemic.

DOST-PCIEERD Executive Director Dr. Enrico Paringit expressed elation over the ingenuity of Filipinos who came up with innovations to fight the global pandemic.

“As leader and partner in enabling innovations in the country, we recognize and urge the public to support these new technologies developed by our brave countrymen,” Paringit said.

Limited implications

<http://www.dost.gov.ph/knowledge-resources/news/67-2020-news/1806-ph-app-developers-fight-covid-19-with-online-innovations.html>

Risks are there

- Little to no proof of vetting



GMA NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DIGITAL

GMA NEWS

Information technology experts have expressed their concern on the usage of the StaySafe.ph, the official contact tracing application of the country against COVID-19, over privacy issues. GMA News and Public Affairs Digital

LAW, ICT, AND HUMAN RIGHTS
COVID-19 apps: In gov't we trust?

Published July 13, 2020 6:11am

By JAMAEL JACOB, ESQ.

- No proper data management in place*

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Ex-DICT Usec. Rio says he was 'eased out' after questioning gov't-backed contact tracing app

By CNN Philippines Staff
Published Jun 7, 2020 11:39:35 PM

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Locsin and Pompeo talk 'shared interests' in South China Sea

<https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/6/7/Eliseo-Rio-StaySafe.ph.html>

- Uncertainty re: existence of safeguards that uphold privacy and data protection in contact tracing technologies

‘Borderline spyware’: IT experts raise alarm over Duterte admin contact-tracing app

JUNE 8, 2020

PIA RANADA



Major factors that determine impact of contact tracing apps on human rights (i.e., privacy)

- Extent of data collection and/or surveillance
- Access to third parties allowed
- Level and type of security in place

Examples of implications of privacy violations

NU Pep Squad coach cries harassment allegedly from contact tracing

[Rick Olivares \(Philstar.com\)](#) - June 15, 2020 -

MANILA, Philippines – Multi-titled Ghicka Bernabe is sounding off about unwarranted calls and text messages

Sultan Kudarat hospital demands justice for health worker attacked with bleach

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Stoning of residence of family being ravaged by COVID-19 condemned

Published April 5, 2020, 12:00 AM
by [manilabulletin_admin](#)

By [Tara Yap](#)

Unauthorized disclosure of COVID-19 patients' identities continues

JUNE 28, 2020

[NIKKO DIZON](#)

Potential impact on the HR situation in the country

- Discrimination
- Physical harm
- Unlawful restrictions (e.g., freedom of movement)
- Unauthorized surveillance
- Impairment of data subject rights

PH Data Protection Policies/Practices and Contact Tracing Apps

NPC Circulars

[NPC Circular 16-01 – Security of Personal Data in Government Agencies](#)
[NPC Circular 16-02 – Data Sharing Agreements Involving Government Agencies](#)
[NPC Circular 16-03 – Personal Data Breach Management](#)
[NPC Circular 16-04 – Rules of Procedure](#)
[NPC Circular 17-01 – Registration of Data Processing Systems](#)
• [NPC Circular 17-01 Appendix 1 – Registration of Data Processing Systems Appendix 1](#)
[NPC Circular 18-01 – Rules of procedure on requests for Advisory Opinions](#)
[NPC Circular 18-02 – Guidelines on Compliance Checks](#)
[NPC Circular 18-03 – Rules on Mediation before the National Privacy Commission](#)
[DOH-NPC Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-0001 – Guidelines on the Use of Telemedicine in COVID-19 Response](#)
[DOH-NPC Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-0002 – Privacy Guidelines on the Processing and Disclosure of COVID-19 Related Data for Disease Surveillance and Response](#)

The Data Privacy Act of 2012

...is a 21st century law to address 21st century crimes and concerns. It (1) protects the privacy of individuals while ensuring free flow of information to promote innovation and growth; (2) regulates the collection, recording, organization, storage, updating or modification, consultation, use, consolidation, blocking, erasure or destruction of personal data; and (3) ensures that the Philippines complies with international standards set for data protection through National Privacy Commission (NPC).

IMPLEMENTING RULES & REGULATIONS



WEB VERSION

PDF VERSION

Data protection policies are in place



**NATIONAL
PRIVACY
COMMISSION**

DATA PRIVACY

NPC to lead COVID-19 global privacy task force

BY BACK END NEWS ON JUNE 9, 2020

Even if the Philippine government is slowly easing restrictions amid the pandemic, the National Privacy Commission (NPC) still calls for privacy boost as work-from-everywhere might soon become the norm.

In the recently held 3rd National Data Privacy Conference during the Privacy Awareness Week (PAW), Commissioner Raymund Liboro urged for the adoption of better defenses against growing attempts at breaching walls protecting sensitive personal data of the public in the time of the pandemic. The digital conference titled "Enabling Trust in the New Normal: Reimagining Privacy in the Time of Pandemic" was attended by 2,000 participants many of whom are Data Protection Officers (DPOs) and gained more than 11,000 views.

"Many of the coping and mitigation measures to deal with the pandemic involve the use of personal data," Liboro said in his opening remarks. "While some aspects of data processing may have changed due to the state of public crisis, the basics remain the same — people's sense of trust that their data is in good hands will largely determine our level of success with those measures."

Data protection authority in operation

Factors that determine the effectiveness of DP policies and DP authority

- Effective and timely interventions
- Willpower of regulator
- Cooperation from the rest of the government

- Bulletins, statements, reminders
- Lack of interest in more proactive role
- Lack of interest or poor appreciation from other government agencies

END

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