



The Presidency

NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

PRIVACY POLICY FOR THE NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)

Background

The National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) is currently implementing the National Identity Management System (NIMS) for Nigeria towards establishing a reliable, secure and scalable Identity Management System that utilizes advanced biometrics technologies to uniquely identify every individual in the country. It includes the establishment of a National Identity Database, extensive network of connectivity and the related citizen verification infrastructure and the issuance of Unique National Identification Number and Smart Cards. When completed and fully deployed, it would enable citizens and legally resident persons to prove or assert their identity in a dependable manner anywhere in Nigeria.

In late 2008, pursuant to its implementation strategies and with particular reference to already identified privacy risks, the NIMC conducted a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) Study to fully determine the extent of privacy issues to address in the implementation of the NIMS. The PIA Study which included the conduct of a survey across Nigeria simultaneously in the six (6) geo-political zones was undertaken by duly appointed consortium of consultants. An important rationale for the study was to ensure that the principles of fair information were observed by the NIMC and adequately provided for in the Privacy Policy Document on the system being implemented.

The objective of the study included the identification of privacy issues of concern to the public so as to take them into consideration in the final design and planning of the data capture/enrollment, storage and access to the National Identity Database, assessment of technology issues as they concern the core personal information involved in the NIMS, especially in terms of the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and the potential abuse, seeking cost-effective solutions and approaches and early introduction of appropriate security and other measures to hedge against perceived risks especially as they concern established consensus on privacy concern; evaluation of extant laws, practices and procedures involved in personal information management and how they impact the privacy of individuals and the development, on these basis, of a Privacy Policy to guide the Commission in the discharge of its functions.

The final Report of the PIA Study and the proposed Privacy Policy have been subjected to an independent review. The outcome of the entire exercise and in particular, the proposed Privacy Policy documents were published for public review. This Stakeholder Workshop is part of a deliberate process of consultation before final adoption of the policy document.