



Adlin Abdul Majid
**Technology, Media and
Telecommunications (TMT)**
T: +603 6208 5816
E: aam@lh-ag.com

17 JANUARY 2020

Embracing Digital Services Through a National Digital Identity

In a statement on 6 January 2020, the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (**MCMC**) announced that a National Digital ID Task Force, co-chaired by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia, Datuk Suriani Ahmad, and the chairman of the MCMC, Al-Ishsal Ishak, was set up on 21 November 2019. The task force will oversee a study, which will recommend the implementation model of a national digital identity (**NDID**) in Malaysia. The study is expected to be completed by 30 June 2020.

Malaysia currently has a national identity card which is embedded with a microchip. It is known as the MyKad and was introduced by the National Registration Department on 5 September 2001, making Malaysia one of the first countries to use a physical identification card that stores personal information electronically. This electronic personal information includes facial images and fingerprint biometric data. In that sense, there already exists a form of “digital identity” for Malaysians.

However, with the implementation of the NDID, the identities of Malaysians may be used as a secure and trusted digital credential. It is intended that the NDID will be used as a platform for authentication that can improve convenience, promote inclusivity, reduce the cost of access to services, and enhance service delivery to Malaysians where online transactions are concerned.

In relation to the legal and regulatory framework, the laws that will be relevant to the implementation of the NDID framework include, among others, the National Registration Act 1959, the Digital Signature Act 1997, the Electronic Commerce Act 2006, the Electronic Government Activities Act 2007, the Personal Data Protection Act 2010 and the Computer Crimes Act 1997. These laws are relevant as they pertain to matters relating to the identities of individuals, electronic authentication and verification technologies, e-commerce, e-Government and the security and privacy of information. In that regard, these laws facilitate the implementation of the NDID. However, certain provisions of the Acts may need to be amended in order to further accommodate the NDID framework.

Given that the uses of the NDID are envisaged to apply across both the public and private sectors, it is anticipated that there will be a rise of digital services as this advanced method of authenticating and

verifying the identity of an individual will provide a more secure environment for e-Government and e-commerce. In that respect, industry players should be cognisant of the potential uses of the NDID in order to enhance their business capabilities.

Tunku Alysha Binti Tunku Alizan (ata@lh-ag.com)

If you have any queries, please contact the author or her team partner **Adlin Abdul Majid** (aam@lh-ag.com).

Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill

Level 6, Menara 1 Dutamas
Solaris Dutamas
No. 1, Jalan Dutamas 1
50480 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

T +603 6208 5888
F +603 6201 0122/0136
E enquiry@lh-ag.com
W www.lh-ag.com

Published by the Technology, Media & Telecommunications Practice

© Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill. All rights reserved. The views and opinions attributable to the authors or editor of this publication are not to be imputed to the firm, Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill. The contents of this publication are intended for purposes of general information and academic discussion only. It should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion on any fact or circumstance.

[Feedback](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)