

VIEWS OF THE DATA PROTECTION COMMISSIONER

What are your views on the privacy day 2022?

We will celebrate the 16th Data Protection Day worldwide and also the 41st anniversary of the Council of Europe Convention 108, which is the only international legally binding instrument on data protection.

The Data Protection Day will begin the year with a positive reminder of the importance to protect privacy rights of people. Privacy is a fundamental human right for each and every individual. Organisations are also reminded of their duty to protect personal data under their custody and to pay special attention to their data transfers across borders. The Data Protection Act 2017 has revolutionised the entire data protection landscape in Mauritius. Many new data subject rights, such as the right to object to automated individual decision-making, have been introduced. In addition to those, new obligations have also increased the accountability of controllers.



Mrs Drudeisha Madhub
Data Protection
Commissioner
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Privacy is no longer a comfort but a necessity. It is, therefore, fundamental that all organisations commit to achieving a level of protection of personal data that corresponds to the changes linked to the rapidly-evolving technology. In an era of COVID-19, technology adoption has taken a quantum leap at the organisational, business, and individual consumer levels. It is thus imperative that privacy protections are reinforced at all levels.

Cross-border data flows will increase as the African continent adopts harmonised privacy and data protection policies and regulations in line with international standards. Therefore, building trust in the security of processing personal data operations is of paramount importance. On this special day, I would like to appeal once again to all controllers and processors to register with the Data Protection Office which is mandatory by law to avoid any risks of being prosecuted. It is also equally important that organisations designate a Data Protection Officer responsible for data protection compliance issues.

What are the activities the Data Protection Office is envisaging for 2022?

This year the focus will be mainly on enforcing data protection in Mauritius through prosecution with the collaboration of the police.

How many organisations are as of today certified with the Data Protection Office?

We are in the process of finalising the certification of one organisation and the process is a rigorous and lengthy one but credit worthy for certified organisations.