

Towards a National I.D. System: An Examination of *Kilusang Mayo Uno, et al. v. The Director General* and Executive Order No. 420

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One of the inherent challenges of running a government is how to maximize efficiency and minimize costs. Good governance means not only providing basic social services but making sure that these services are aptly and competently delivered. One of the ways for government to enhance the integrity and reliability of its transactions is to reduce unnecessary and costly redundancies by devising tools to simplify complicated government operations.

The Arroyo Administration's recent move for a unified identification system with Executive Order No. 420 (E.O. 420) prompts to serve as a device to increase efficiency in government operations and transactions. This bid for a unified identification system recognizes that the existing multiple identification systems have created unnecessary redundancies and higher costs to the government. It intends to facilitate private businesses, enhance the integrity and reliability of government-issued identification cards in private transactions, and prevent violations of laws involving false names and identities.

The case of *Kilusang Mayo Uno, et al. v. The Director General* and the issuance of Executive Order No. 420, with respect to the right to privacy and the implementation of a national identification system sharpens the discourse as to the wisdom and legality of previous attempts at an integrated identification system.