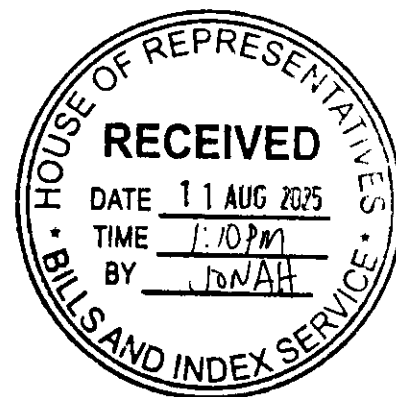




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3438**



Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
INCORPORATING THE VALUE OF RESPONSIBLE, FAIR AND TRUTHFUL
USAGE AND ENJOYMENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN SCHOOLS AND
UNIVERSITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Social media has become an integral part of modern life in the country. In the Philippines, an article published by the Inquirer reported that 77% of Filipinos are more active in online interactions than in real-life engagements. This online behavior influences how the youth consume information, interact socially, and form their values and beliefs.

Additionally, the Digital 2024 Report shows that Filipinos spend an average of 3 hours and 34 minutes daily on social media, placing the country among the highest in the world in terms of social media usage. While this reflects digital connectivity, it also highlights the urgent need to equip the youth with the ability to discern factual information, exercise fairness, and use social media platforms responsibly.

This proposed legislative measure seeks to embed social media awareness into the national education framework by mandating its inclusion in both primary and secondary school curricula, and integrating it into the National Service Training Program (NSTP) in higher educational institutions. The goal of this measure is to empower students to understand how

social media can serve as a tool for nation building, critical engagement, and participatory democracy, when used properly.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Remulla', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CRISPIN DIEGO "PING" D. REMULLA



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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Social Media Awareness*
2 *in Schools and Universities Act*”.

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is in line with the increasing significance of Social
4 Media, as well as the Constitutional recognition of the vital role of communication and
5 information in nation-building, the role of education in fostering patriotism and nationalism,
6 accelerating social progress, and promoting total human liberation and development, as well as
7 the vital role of the youth in nation-building, it is the declared policy of the State to inculcate
8 unto the youth the virtues of discernment, critical-thinking, and responsible and fair use of
9 Social Media.

10 **SEC. 3. *Inclusion of Social Media in the Curricula for Primary and Secondary***
11 ***Education.*** – Social Media awareness shall be part of the curriculum for both primary and
12 secondary education, in public and private schools, with the following objectives:

- 13 a) Inculcate how various types of Social Media aid in the effective and efficient
14 dissemination of information; help in shaping public discourse and opinion; and
15 facilitate in fostering a more participative democracy;

- 1 b) Instill the importance of upholding truth and the veracity of facts, figures and events
2 in Social Media;
3 c) Train students in responsible and fair use of Social Media; and
4 d) Foster the virtues of discernment and critical-thinking in the use and enjoyment of
5 Social Media.

6 **SEC. 4. *Social Media Awareness as part of the National Service Training Program***
7 **(NSTP).** – Social Media awareness must be made part of the National Service Training
8 Program (NSTP), particularly in the service components pertaining to the Literacy Training
9 Service (LTS) and the Civic Welfare Training Service (CWTS).

10 **SEC. 5. *Contribution of the Private Sector in Social Media Awareness.*** – Private
11 corporations must formulate and implement effective measures and/or policies in relation to
12 the responsible, fair and truthful utilization and enjoyment of various types of Social Media.
13 Private corporations must likewise promote the foregoing as part of their respective Corporate
14 Social Responsibility (CSR).

15 **SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The DepEd, CHED, the Technical
16 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and SEC, in consultation with the
17 Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall jointly formulate
18 the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within sixty (60) days from the approval of
19 this Act.

20 **SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared
21 unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain
22 in full force and effect.

23 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, or rules and regulations which
24 are inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed
25 accordingly.

26 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
27 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,