



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 9254

Introduced by **HON. YEVGENY VINCENTE B. EMANO**

**AN ACT DEFINING AND PENALIZING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS
(VAWP), PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution guarantees the fundamental equality of women and men before the law and recognizes the vital role of women in nation-building. It mandates the State to ensure that women are able to fully participate in the political, economic, and social life of the nation.

Despite these constitutional guarantees, women in the Philippines continue to face significant barriers to meaningful political participation. Women candidates, elected officials, political party members, campaign staff, and activists frequently encounter gender-based harassment, intimidation, discrimination, and violence that undermine their ability to participate freely and effectively in political and public life.

These harms are manifested not only through physical threats and coercion but also through institutional discrimination within political parties, economic deprivation of campaign resources, psychological harassment, sexual violence, and increasingly through technology-facilitated abuse. The rise of digital platforms has enabled new forms of political violence targeting women, including coordinated online harassment, gendered disinformation, doxxing, impersonation, and the malicious dissemination of manipulated or fabricated media intended to shame, silence, or force women out of political participation.

Such acts not only harm individual women but also weaken democratic institutions by discouraging women from seeking public office, suppressing diverse representation, and eroding public trust in democratic processes.

At present, while several existing laws address particular forms of violence or discrimination, the Philippines does not yet have a comprehensive legal framework that specifically recognizes and penalizes violence against women in politics. Existing statutes such as the Republic Act No. 9710, the Republic Act No. 9262, the Republic Act No. 11313, and the Republic Act No. 10175 address certain related conduct, but none specifically target the unique forms of violence and institutional barriers faced by women engaged in political life.

This proposed measure seeks to fill this legislative gap by defining and penalizing Violence Against Women in Politics (VAWP) and by establishing comprehensive preventive, protective, and accountability mechanisms. The bill recognizes that violence against women in politics may occur offline or online and may take the form of economic, institutional, physical, psychological, sexual, symbolic, or technology-facilitated violence.

The measure mandates safeguards within political parties and party-list organizations, including internal codes of conduct, reporting mechanisms, and equitable access to campaign support resources. It also introduces structural reforms to encourage women's participation in political representation, including mechanisms such as the zipper system in party nominations and minimum resource allocation for women candidates.

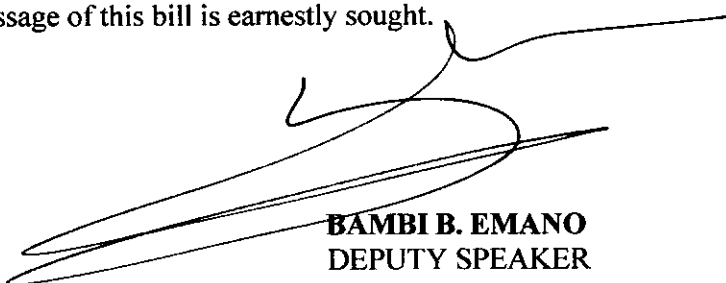
Recognizing the growing role of digital technologies in political discourse, the bill also establishes duties of care for digital platforms and provides mechanisms for cooperation with government authorities to address technology-facilitated violence against women in politics, while ensuring due process, transparency, and respect for fundamental rights.

Furthermore, the measure strengthens reporting and response mechanisms by creating a Violence Against Women in Politics (VAWP) Desk within the Commission on Elections and by providing for coordinated enforcement among relevant government agencies, including the Philippine Commission on Women, the Department of Justice, the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Commission on Human Rights, and other concerned institutions.

By establishing clear definitions, remedies, and enforcement mechanisms, the proposed measure aims to create safer and more equitable political spaces for women and to strengthen democratic participation and electoral integrity in the Philippines.

Ensuring that women can participate in politics without fear of violence, intimidation, or discrimination is not only a matter of gender equality but also a necessary condition for a healthy and representative democracy.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



BAMBI B. EMAMO
DEPUTY SPEAKER



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

SECTION. 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Prevention of Violence Against Women in Politics (VAWP) Act.”

SECTION. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men. It is the policy of the State to ensure women’s full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation in political and public life. The State shall prevent, prohibit, and penalize violence against women in politics; ensure accessible reporting, redress, and protection mechanisms; and require political parties, candidates, and digital platforms to adopt effective safeguards against violence, harassment, intimidation, and gendered disinformation that undermine democratic participation and electoral integrity.

SECTION. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

1) Women in Politics – refers to persons who are born female, self-identify as female, or live as a female regardless of medical, surgical, or legal transition, who are candidates for elective public offices, those holding elective public offices, political party members and officers, party-list nominees, campaign and party staff, and women members of political movements;

2) Violence Against Women in Politics (VAWP) – refers to any act or omission directed at, or affecting a woman in politics, which can be done in public or private, and which can occur online or offline, that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological, economic, institutional, or symbolic harm or suffering to women in politics, including threats, harassment,

coercion, intimidation, discrimination, or deprivation of rights, committed on account of gender, or with the effect of undermining women's political rights, agency, participation, candidacy, or exercise of public office;

3) Coordinated Inauthentic Behavior – refers to coordinated activity by networks of accounts, pages, groups, or actors, including automated or fake accounts, used to mislead the public as to the origin, intent, or coordination of messaging, including amplification of gendered harassment, intimidation, or disinformation targeting a woman in politics;

4) Covered Non-Resident Platform – refers to a Digital Platform that has no principal place of business in the Philippines but offers services to users in the Philippines and derives revenue from the Philippine market, including through advertising, subscriptions, data monetization, or transactions;

5) Digital Platform – refers to an online service that hosts, curates, recommends, promotes, amplifies, or disseminates user-generated content, paid content, political advertisements, or public communications to users in the Philippines, including social media, video-sharing platforms, and messaging services with public channels or equivalent features;

6) Digital Intermediary – refers to any person or entity that, in the course of business, enables, facilitates, processes, or provides material support for the delivery, availability, monetization, or reach of a Digital Platform or online content in the Philippines, including, as may be applicable, internet access providers, content delivery or hosting services, advertising networks, and payment or monetization services, subject to applicable laws and regulations;

7) Gender and Development (GAD) Budget – refers to the budget required or authorized under existing laws, rules, and guidelines for gender and development programs of government agencies and local government units;

8) Gendered Disinformation – refers to false, misleading, or manipulated information, narratives, or content that targets a woman in politics because of gender, often using sexualized, misogynistic, or discriminatory themes, with the purpose or effect of discrediting, shaming, intimidating, or excluding her from political participation;

9) Resident Agent – refers to the authorized representative appointed in the Philippines by a Covered Non-Resident Platform to receive notices, Verified Reports, orders, and other processes under this Act;

10) Party Campaign Support Resources – refer to resources provided, controlled, or facilitated by political parties, coalitions, or party-list organizations for campaign or electoral participation, including, but not limited to, cash assistance, shared staff support, advertising support, transportation, logistics, communications, data services, campaign materials, coordinated rallies, and other party-controlled resources and services;

11) Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women in Politics – refers to violence against women in politics committed through digital systems, online platforms, telecommunications, messaging services, or other information and communications technologies, including coordinated attacks, impersonation, doxxing, non-consensual disclosure of personal information, and gendered disinformation;

12) Transformative Feminist Leadership - refers to a leadership and governance framework that goes beyond numerical representation by redistributing power and dismantling systemic gender-based exclusion through shared decision-making, ethics of care, and intersectional justice. It institutionalizes participatory co-design, where women and marginalized sectors serve as primary architects of policies, programs, and services. It also integrates psychosocial well-being, recognition of unpaid care work, and inclusive activities into governance while applying an intersectional lens to address overlapping forms of discrimination. This approach promotes institutional accountability by fostering safe, zero-tolerance political environments and advancing women into specialized, high-level decision-making roles across all levels of government.

13) VAWP Desk – refers to the unit assigned to receive reports, provide guidance on documentation and evidence preservation, coordinate referrals, verify reports for the issuance of Verified Reports;

14) Zipper System – refers to the ranking system for nominees where women and men are alternated in sequence, where applicable.

SECTION 4. *Prohibited Acts.* – The following acts or omissions constitute VAWP under this Act when committed against a woman in politics, whether perpetrated offline or online:

1) Economic Violence – refers to the use of financial hardship, resource deprivation, property destruction, or any other form of economic prejudice as a tool of political intimidation or control. It includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

a) The withholding, blocking, or diversion of lawful funds or resources, including campaign funds;

b) Threats against the livelihood of a woman in politics or her family;

c) The discriminatory withholding of resources for her constituency or office; or

d) Acts of vandalism, destruction, property removal, or theft connected to her political participation, candidacy, or exercise of public office.

2) Institutional Violence – refers to the systematic or repeated acts, policies, or omissions by political parties, party-list organizations, government institutions, agencies, and instrumentalities, local government units, and other political organizations that discriminate against or prevent women from seeking, holding, or effectively exercising elective office. It includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

a) The consistent and deliberate placement of women nominees in non-winnable positions in party-list nominations, where applicable;

b) The systematic barring of women from key party leadership roles, executive committees, caucus deliberations, or other decision-making spaces on the basis of gender;

c) The inequitable distribution of party funds, media exposure, campaign logistics, or other party support to women candidates or nominees compared to their male counterparts; or

d) The formulation or implementation of arbitrary or discriminatory internal requirements, or the weaponization of disciplinary processes, intended to discourage women from running for, or holding office.

3) Physical Violence – refers to bodily harm or deprivation of liberty that threatens the life, personal security or bodily integrity of women in politics, and which adversely affects their participation in electoral politics or holding of public office. It includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

a) Killing, beating, shoving, slapping, hitting, kicking, biting, choking, burning, or the brandishing or use of weapons;

b) Kidnapping, unlawful displacement, enforced disappearance, or arbitrary arrest or detention to prevent a woman from performing political duties or participating in political activities; or

c) The use of physical force or the threat of force to block or delay access to political venues, polling places, campaign activities, or official meetings.

4) Psychological Violence – refers to acts or omissions intended to inflict trauma on a person's mental state or emotional well-being in order to shame, disempower, or degrade them. It may occur within or outside official political settings and be carried out in person or via digital means. It includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

a) Explicit or implied death threats, rape threats, or threats of harm directed at the woman or her relatives, including threats involving family members, partners, associates, or companion animals;

b) Acts of bullying, rumor campaigns, slut-shaming, or ageist remarks intended to undermine a woman's dignity, credibility, or public standing;

c) The deliberate denial of a woman's right to speak in sessions or committees, retaliatory exclusion or ostracism within political bodies or assemblies, or unlawful surveillance intended to intimidate or silence;

d) Illegal interrogation, blackmail, or malicious prosecution, including the filing of baseless legal charges against the woman or her immediate family members, intended to harass, intimidate, or coerce; or

e) Threats to release, publish, or fabricate private or sensitive sexual materials, including manipulated or fabricated media such as deepfakes, to force a woman's withdrawal from a race, resignation from office, or compliance with political demands.

5) Doxxing - refers to the public disclosure, dissemination, or publication of a woman in politics' personal or identifying information without consent, where such disclosure is intended or is likely to intimidate, harass, threaten, incite harm, or otherwise undermine her political participation. It includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

a) Publication of home address, workplace, phone numbers, email addresses, government-issued identifiers, financial information, or real-time location;

b) Disclosure of information about the woman's family members, household members, or associates to facilitate harassment or threats;

c) Linking or reposting such information with calls to contact, harm, surveil, or "teach a lesson" to the woman; or

d) Encouraging or coordinating others to obtain or disseminate such information.

6) Technology-facilitated violence and online political abuse - refers to any of the following acts, when used to target, silence, or delegitimize women in politics:

a)cyberstalking, online harassment, brigading, coordinated trolling, or mass reporting designed to deplatform or suppress expression;

b)impersonation, identity misuse, unauthorized access to accounts, or malicious publication of private communications;

c)distribution or threatened distribution of intimate images, real or fabricated; and

d)creation, publication, or dissemination of deepfakes, manipulated media, or synthetic content depicting a woman in sexualized, degrading, or criminal contexts to undermine political standing.

7) Semiotic Violence – refers to the use of words, images, symbols, or messaging to injure, discipline, subjugate, erase, or delegitimize women as political actors, with the purpose or effect of undermining their political participation, credibility, authority, or safety. It includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

a)The deliberate omission or erasure of a woman’s contributions in official records or public communications, or the systematic suppression of her visibility in political narratives;

b)The symbolic removal, alteration, or manipulation of a woman’s image or presence to portray her as illegitimate or unworthy of political participation;

c)The use of gendered tropes to frame women as unfit for leadership, including ridiculing women as “emotional,” sexually objectifying them, or judging them by gendered stereotypes rather than policy positions; or

d)Messaging intended to portray women’s leadership as inherently improper or incompatible with public office.

8) Sexual Violence – refers to unwanted conduct targeting a person’s sexuality or sexual characteristics, ranging from non-consensual physical contact to unwelcome verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature. In the context of political participation, it is used to humiliate women, assert dominance, extort political compliance, or force withdrawal. It includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

a)Rape, attempted rape, and non-consensual touching, kissing, or groping;

b)Unwanted sexual advances, sexual jokes, sexually suggestive remarks, or sexualized conduct occurring during campaigns, legislative sessions, community gatherings, or official functions;

c)Demand for sexual favors by a person in authority, such as a party leader, government official, or political gatekeeper, in exchange for campaign funding, party nominations, official support, or political benefits;

d)Spreading sexual rumors, conversations, innuendo, blind items, or sexualized media content intended to shame, intimidate, or coerce her in relation to her political participation; or

9) Other analogous acts – refer to any other conduct that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological, economic, institutional, or symbolic harm, committed because of gender or with the effect of undermining political rights.

SECTION 5. *Protection and Immediate Remedies.* – A woman in politics who experiences, is threatened with, or is at risk of VAWP shall have access to timely, accessible, and survivor-centered protection and remedies, including:

- a) Safe and accessible reporting channels and assistance in documenting incidents;
- b) Referral to appropriate support services, including legal assistance, psychosocial support, and protective measures, as may be available; and
- c) Coordination with appropriate government agencies for protection and enforcement, consistent with law.

SECTION 6. *Non-Reprisal.* – No person, political party, party-list organization, campaign, public office, private entity, or Digital Platform shall intimidate, threaten, harass, penalize, or otherwise retaliate against a woman in politics. Likewise, no person, group or entity, whether in government or in the private sector, shall commit the same acts against any witness, reporting individual, or any person or group who shall initiate, or assist in the reporting to the media or the authorities, documentation or preservation of evidence, filing of complaint, testifying before a court or competent authority, and performing any other act to seek remedies for violations of this Act.

SECTION 7. *VAWP Desk and Election-Period Rapid Response Mechanism.* – The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) shall establish a Violence Against Women in Politics (VAWP) Desk and an Election-Period Rapid Response Mechanism to prevent, monitor, and address acts covered by this Act, particularly during the election period.

The VAWP Desk shall:

- a) Receive complaints, reports, and referrals involving VAWP;
- b) Guide documentation and evidence preservation, and facilitate referrals to appropriate support services;
- c) Conduct verification for purposes of issuing a Verified Report under this Act, without prejudice to further proceedings;
- d) Coordinate with relevant government agencies for protection and enforcement consistent with law; and
- e) Issue guidelines and advisories relating to VAWP prevention and response in accordance with this Act and the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

SECTION 8. *Mandatory Safeguards of Political Parties and Party-List Organizations.* – All political parties, coalitions, and party-list organizations participating in an election shall adopt and implement safeguards against VAWP. These safeguards shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) An internal policy and code of conduct prohibiting VAWP applicable to party officers, members, nominees, candidates, campaign and party staff, and volunteers;
- b) Safe and accessible reporting channels within the party and clear procedures for receiving, acting on, and resolving complaints;
- c) Confidentiality safeguards and protection against retaliation;
- d) Internal administrative sanctions for violations, including suspension, removal from position, withdrawal of endorsement, or expulsion, without prejudice to criminal and civil actions;
- e) Periodic training on VAWP prevention and safe political participation; and
- f) Designation of a VAWP focal person or committee responsible for compliance with this Act.

SECTION 9. *Zipper System for Party-List or Party Nominees.* – Where applicable, party-list or political parties shall adopt a zipper system in the ranking of nominees by alternating women and men in the sequence of nominees.

SECTION 10. *Minimum Party Resource Allocation for Women Candidates and Nominees.* – Political parties, coalitions, and party-list organizations participating in an election shall allocate not less than thirty percent (30%) of Party Campaign Support Resources to women candidates or women nominees.

For purposes of this Act, Party Campaign Support Resources include, but are not limited to, cash assistance, shared staff support, advertising support, transportation, logistics, communications, data services, campaign materials, coordinated rallies, and other party-controlled resources and services.

COMELEC shall issue guidelines on reporting, documentation, and verification of compliance with this Section.

SECTION 11. *Party Compliance Reporting.* – COMELEC may require participating political parties, coalitions, and party-list organizations to submit a compliance report in the form prescribed by COMELEC. The report shall include, but is not limited to, documentation of the safeguards under Section 8, training activities conducted, and compliance with Section 10.

SECTION 12. *Administrative Measures for Party Non-Compliance.* – For willful failure to comply with Sections 8 to 11, COMELEC may impose graduated administrative measures consistent with existing law and due process, including, but not limited to, compliance orders, warnings, administrative fines where authorized, and other lawful measures within its jurisdiction.

SECTION 13. *Covered Non-Resident Platforms in relation to VAWP.* – A Covered Non-Resident Platform shall be deemed to be doing business in the Philippines, for purposes of regulation and enforcement under this Act, when it:

- a) Purposefully directs its services to users in the Philippines, including the hosting, dissemination, or amplification of political content accessible to Philippine users;
- b) Accepts advertising targeted to the Philippines;
- c) Derives revenue from the Philippine market; or
- d) Maintains substantial digital operations that enable, facilitate, or fail to address online acts constituting VAWP, affecting persons in the Philippines.

SECTION 14. *Appointment of Resident Agent for the enforcement of VAWP.* – Every Covered Non-Resident Platform shall appoint a resident agent in the Philippines authorized to:

- a) Receive notices, Verified Reports, orders, and other processes under this Act;
- b) Receive and comply with orders, directives, or processes issued by competent Philippine authorities under this Act; and
- c) Coordinate with government agencies regarding content moderation, takedown requests, preservation of evidence, and other enforcement measures.

The period, qualifications, and manner of appointment of the resident agent shall be provided in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

SECTION 15. *Duty of Care of Digital Platforms.* – Digital Platforms covered by this Act shall exercise a duty of care to prevent, mitigate, and respond to Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women in Politics. The duty of care shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a) Establishment of a clear and accessible reporting mechanism for VAWP and a priority channel for Verified Reports issued by COMELEC;
- b) Reasonable measures to detect and address Coordinated Inauthentic Behavior and Gendered Disinformation targeting women in politics;
- c) Reasonable steps to prevent the amplification or recommendation of content that constitutes Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women in Politics under this Act; and
- d) Preservation of relevant data and evidence upon lawful request in accordance with the IRR and applicable laws.

SECTION 16. *Twenty-Four (24)-Hour Action on Verified Reports of VAWP.* – Upon receipt of a Verified Report from COMELEC, the Digital Platform shall, within twenty-four (24) hours, take appropriate action on the identified content, which may include removal, disabling access, limiting circulation, labeling, or other effective measures consistent with the IRR.

The IRR shall provide minimum standards for notice, contestability, transparency, evidence preservation, and due process safeguards, ensuring both the protection of political rights and the prompt mitigation of harms arising from online VAWP.

SECTION 17. *Administrative Fines for Platform Non-Compliance.* – A Digital Platform that willfully refuses to comply with Sections 14 to 16, including failure to appoint a resident agent or failure to act on a Verified Report on VAWP, within the prescribed period, shall be subject to administrative fines of not less than One Million Pesos (₱1,000,000.00) per day of continuing non-compliance, without prejudice to civil and criminal liabilities under applicable laws.

SECTION 18. *Last Resort Measures for Persistent Non-Compliance.* - In cases of persistent and willful refusal to comply with Verified Reports on VAWP issued under this Act, and where there is a credible risk of imminent harm or severe disruption of electoral integrity, the COMELEC may recommend time-bound and narrowly tailored measures provided under the IRR, consistent with due process and applicable laws.

SECTION 19. *Civil Liability and Private Right of Action.* – A woman in politics harmed by a Digital Platform's willful failure to comply with Sections 14 to 17 may file a civil action for damages. Failure to act within the prescribed period after receipt of a Verified Report shall constitute prima facie evidence of negligence, subject to defenses under the IRR and applicable laws.

Recoverable damages may include actual, moral, and exemplary damages, attorney's fees, and statutory damages of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00) per day of continuing non-compliance.

SECTION 20. *Criminal Penalties.* – Any person who commits VAWP under Section 4 of this Act shall suffer the following penalties, without prejudice to prosecution under other applicable laws:

a) Any person who commits economic violence against a woman in politics shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than six (6) years, or a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court;

b) Any public officer, political party officer, or responsible official of a political organization who commits institutional violence shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more than six (6) years, and a fine of not less than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱200,000.00) but not more than One Million Pesos (₱1,000,000.00);

If the offender is a public officer, the penalty shall further include perpetual disqualification from holding public office and forfeiture of retirement benefits, without prejudice to administrative sanctions;

c) Acts constituting physical violence under this Act shall be punished by the penalty one degree higher than that provided under the Revised Penal Code or other applicable laws for the same act, when committed for the purpose of preventing or punishing the political participation of a woman;

d) Any person who commits psychological violence against a woman in politics shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more than six (6) years, and a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00);

e) Any person who engages in doxxing as defined under this Act shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than two (2) years but not more than six (6) years, and a fine of not less than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱200,000.00) but not more than One Million Pesos (₱1,000,000.00);

f)Any person who commits technology-facilitated violence or online political abuse shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than two (2) years but not more than six (6) years, and a fine of not less than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00) but not more than One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00), without prejudice to prosecution under the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 and other applicable laws;

g)Any person who commits semiotic violence against a woman in politics shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than three (3) years, or a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (P300,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court;

h)Acts constituting sexual violence under this Act shall be punished by the penalty one degree higher than that provided under the Revised Penal Code, the Anti-Rape Law, the Safe Spaces Act, and other applicable laws, when committed against a woman in politics by reason of or in relation to her political participation, candidacy, or exercise of public office;

i)Any analogous act resulting in violence against women in politics shall be punished by the penalty corresponding to the most analogous prohibited act under this section, taking into account the gravity and circumstances of the offense.

SECTION 21. *Accessory Penalties and Collateral Consequences.* - In addition to the penalties provided in Section 20 hereof, the following shall be accessory penalties:

a)Candidates and nominees. — If the offender is a candidate or a nominee, a final conviction under this Act, being an election offense, shall carry the accessory penalties of disqualification to hold public office and deprivation of the right of suffrage, consistent with Section 264 of the Omnibus Election Code.

b)Public officers and employees. — If the offender is a public officer or employee, the conviction shall be without prejudice to the institution of the appropriate administrative case under civil service and related rules for conduct prejudicial to the service, grave misconduct, and other applicable offenses, and to the filing of cases before the Office of the Ombudsman or other proper bodies.

c)Party officials and persons acting for a party. — If the offenders are officers, members, employees, contractors, or authorized representatives of a political party, coalition, or party-list organization in furtherance of party objectives, such persons shall be liable as principals, accomplices, or accessories, consistent with the Omnibus Election Code's framework on criminal liability for election offenses.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish COMELEC's authority to enforce election and campaign rules through lawful regulatory orders and proceedings under existing election laws and COMELEC rules.

SECTION 22. *Aggravating Circumstances.* – The following circumstances, when attendant in the commission of any prohibited act under this Act, shall be considered aggravating and shall justify the imposition of the maximum penalty prescribed under this Act or under other applicable laws, as well as the appropriate accessory penalties and disqualification where provided by law, without prejudice to prosecution under the Omnibus Election Code and other applicable election or criminal laws:

a) Abuse of authority or position. – The offender is a public officer or employee, whether elected or appointed; an officer or employee of a government instrumentality; a member of the military or police; or a person acting under color of official authority, and the act was committed by reason of or in connection with the exercise of such authority.

b) Use of public funds, resources, or facilities. – The prohibited act was committed through the use, misuse, or diversion of government resources, including public funds, vehicles, personnel time, official communications platforms, or government premises.

c) Commission by political organizations. – The act was committed by, or with the knowledge, authorization, or toleration of, a political party, party-list organization, coalition, campaign organization, or their officers, members, employees, volunteers, contractors, or authorized representatives.

d) Commissioned by a group or in a coordinated manner. – The act was carried out by two (2) or more persons, or as part of an organized, systematic, repeated, or coordinated campaign, including brigading, trolling, mass harassment, or other collective acts designed to silence, intimidate, or discredit.

e) Election-period interference. – The act was committed during the election or campaign period, or at any stage of the electoral process, including the filing of candidacy, campaigning, voting, counting, canvassing, or proclamation, or was intended to coerce withdrawal, compel substitution, suppress participation, or influence electoral outcomes.

f) Targeting by reason of vulnerability or protected status. – The victim is placed at heightened risk by reason of her status or circumstances, including but not limited to being young, pregnant, a solo parent, an indigenous woman, or a person with disability, or where the act exploits such vulnerability or targets her family members or dependents.

g) Threats or harm to relatives, staff, supporters, or voters. – The prohibited act includes threats or acts of intimidation or violence directed at the victim's family members, household members, staff, campaign workers, supporters, volunteers, witnesses, or voters.

h) Use of weapons or destruction of property. – The act involved the use or brandishing of a weapon, or the destruction, sabotage, or unlawful seizure of campaign materials, equipment, vehicles, premises, or other property intended to intimidate or disrupt political activities.

i) Disinformation and falsification with gendered intent. – The act involved the deliberate fabrication, falsification, or dissemination of materially false content weaponizing sex, gender, sexuality, morality, or gender stereotypes to delegitimize the victim, suppress her candidacy, or incite hostility or violence.

j) Repeat offense or pattern of conduct. – The offender committed the prohibited act repeatedly, or engaged in a pattern of conduct against the same victim or against multiple women in politics.

k) Obstruction, retaliation, or tampering. – The offender obstructed reporting or investigation, retaliated against complainants or witnesses, destroyed or fabricated evidence, or coerced the withdrawal of complaints or affidavits.

l)Commission in a public or official forum. – The act was committed in a public event, official proceeding, campaign rally, debate, media broadcast, online livestream, or any forum with wide public reach, thereby magnifying humiliation, intimidation, or incitement.

SECTION 23. *Monitoring, Compliance, and Enforcement by the COMELEC.* —The COMELEC shall exercise oversight over political parties and party-list organizations in matters within its statutory authority, to ensure compliance with this Act and related COMELEC rules in connection with elections.

A. VAWP Compliance by Political Parties and Party-List Organizations

1.Pre-Election VAWP Compliance Submission. — Within the period prescribed by the COMELEC, all registered political parties and accredited party-list organizations intending to participate in an election shall submit a VAWP Compliance Report, containing:

- i.a copy of the party’s internal policy or code of conduct addressing VAWP;
- ii.documentation of capacity-building activities for officers and members; and
- iii.the gender composition of party leadership and, where applicable, nominees.

2.COMELEC Action on Non-Submission - Non-submission shall result in issuance of a Notice to Comply and such administrative sanctions as may be provided under COMELEC rules.

3.Accreditation/Registration Actions - Repeated or willful non-compliance with VAWP safeguards may be considered by the COMELEC, consistent with existing election laws and due process, in determining eligibility for participation benefits or privileges granted to political parties and party-list organizations.

B. Monitoring of Campaign Support and Resource Access

1.Review of Campaign Support Patterns. — The COMELEC Campaign Finance Office may incorporate sex-disaggregated reporting, where feasible, in the review of Statements of Contributions and Expenditures (SOCE), in order to identify patterns of discriminatory denial of lawful campaign support or coercive control of campaign resources affecting women candidates.

2.Administrative Inquiry. — Any disparity identified shall not, by itself, create a presumption of criminal liability, but may serve as basis for administrative inquiry, compliance directives, or referral under this Act or other applicable laws.

C. Election-Period Enforcement Against VAWP-Related Campaign Violations

1.Where acts of Violence Against Women in Politics involve prohibited election propaganda, abusive campaign materials, or unlawful online election content, the COMELEC may issue lawful orders for removal, takedown, correction, or cessation, consistent with its existing regulations and procedures.

2.All enforcement actions shall observe notice, hearing, and due process under COMELEC rules and applicable election laws.

D. Administrative Compliance Measures

1. Notice to Comply. — For initial non-compliance with reporting or VAWP-related institutional requirements, the COMELEC shall issue a Notice to Comply within a specified period.

2. Administrative Fine. — Continued or willful non-compliance may result in the imposition of administrative fines or other sanctions, as authorized by law or valid COMELEC rules, subject to due process.

E. Minimum Campaign Support for Women Candidates - Every registered political party, coalition, and accredited party-list organization participating in an election shall allocate or ensure access to not less than thirty percent (30%) of party campaign support resources for the benefit of women candidates and women party-list nominees in its slate.

For purposes of this Section, party campaign support resources refer to party-controlled resources used for electoral support, including campaign funds, advertising, logistics, staffing, digital promotion, and other resources provided by or through the party for the electoral benefit of candidates.

No party shall evade compliance through: a. indirect spending routed through third persons; b. selective denial or withdrawal of party support to women candidates; or c. nominal allocations that are materially inaccessible or unusable.

The COMELEC may require the submission of supporting documents to verify compliance.

SECTION 24. Roles of Implementing Agencies. – The implementation of this Act shall be led by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) with the support of relevant government agencies, consistent with their respective mandates and applicable laws.

(a) Commission on Elections (COMELEC). The COMELEC shall:

i. Establish and operate a Violence Against Women in Politics (VAWP) Desk and an Election-Period Rapid Response Mechanism under this Act;

ii. Receive complaints, reports, and referrals involving Violence Against Women in Politics, including technology-facilitated acts;

iii. Verify reports and issue Verified Reports, without prejudice to further administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings under this Act and other laws;

iv. Maintain election-period protocols for rapid response, coordination, and evidence preservation, consistent with due process;

v. Issue guidelines, forms, and compliance requirements for political parties, coalitions, party-list organizations, and candidates;

vi. Coordinate with digital platforms for priority reporting channels and response mechanisms, including the processing of Verified Reports;

vii.Document and monitor patterns and trends of Violence Against Women in Politics during election periods, subject to data privacy laws; and

viii.Promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) in coordination with the agencies identified in this Section.

(b) Philippine Commission on Women (PCW). The PCW shall provide policy guidance and technical assistance to COMELEC and implementing agencies in integrating gender-responsive approaches to the prevention and response to VAWP, including the development of standards, training modules, and advocacy initiatives.

(c) Civil Service Commission (CSC). The Civil Service Commission shall incorporate VAWP within the ethical and administrative standards applicable to public officials and employees, and establish appropriate administrative sanctions for violations consistent with existing laws.

(d) Commission on Audit (COA). The Commission on Audit shall issue appropriate audit guidance to ensure that relevant Gender and Development (GAD) programs and budgets of government agencies and local government units support initiatives related to women's leadership and the prevention of VAWP, consistent with existing auditing laws and regulations.

(e) Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). The DICT shall provide technical support to COMELEC in the development and operation of digital reporting systems, standards for evidence preservation, and cybersecurity measures relevant to responding to technology-facilitated VAWP.

(f) National Telecommunications Commission (NTC). The NTC shall coordinate with COMELEC and DICT on telecommunications-related matters necessary for the implementation of this Act and may assist in the implementation of lawful measures addressing persistent platform non-compliance, subject to due process and applicable laws.

(g) Philippine National Police (PNP) and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)

The PNP and NBI shall:

i.Assist COMELEC in responding to credible threats or risks involving Violence Against Women in Politics;

ii.Investigate acts that may constitute offenses under the Revised Penal Code, special laws, or cybercrime-related laws; and

iii.Assist in the preservation of physical and digital evidence in accordance with applicable procedures.

(h) Department of Justice (DOJ). The Department of Justice and appropriate prosecution offices shall receive referrals and prosecute criminal cases arising from acts covered by this Act and shall coordinate with COMELEC and law enforcement agencies in case build-up and prosecution.

(i) Commission on Human Rights (CHR). The CHR shall provide guidance on human rights–based and survivor-centered approaches, assist in monitoring patterns of abuse affecting women’s political participation, and support public education consistent with its constitutional mandate.

(j) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The DILG shall promote the establishment of local monitoring and reporting mechanisms related to Violence Against Women in Politics and integrate relevant indicators within existing local governance and gender and development monitoring frameworks.

(k) Local Government Units (LGUs). Local government units shall support local referral systems, public awareness activities, and survivor support mechanisms addressing VAWP, consistent with existing laws and available resources.

(l) Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED). DepEd and CHED shall integrate age-appropriate modules on gender equality, respectful political discourse, and the prevention of VAWP into relevant curricula and civic education programs.

(m) National Youth Commission (NYC). The NYC shall integrate awareness and prevention of VAWP into youth leadership and civic participation programs, including those involving Sangguniang Kabataan officials.

(n) Political Parties. Political parties shall establish internal disciplinary mechanisms and codes of conduct prohibiting VAWP, and shall take appropriate action against members who commit acts prohibited under this Act, subject to applicable election laws and COMELEC regulations.

SECTION. 25. *Jurisdiction of Courts.* - The Regional Trial Courts shall have **exclusive original jurisdiction** over violations of this Act punishable by imprisonment exceeding six (6) years, while first-level courts shall exercise jurisdiction over offenses punishable by imprisonment not exceeding six (6) years, consistent with existing procedural laws.

Special courts designated to hear cases involving violence against women and children may likewise hear cases arising under this Act where applicable.

The institution of criminal actions under this Act shall **not preclude the filing of separate civil actions for damages** arising from the same act or omission.

SECTION. 26. *Rules on Evidence and Digital Evidence.* - Evidence obtained from digital platforms, telecommunications networks, or electronic communications shall be admissible in accordance with the **Rules on Electronic Evidence**, the **Cybercrime Prevention Act**, and other applicable laws.

Digital platforms shall preserve relevant digital records, logs, and content metadata necessary for the investigation and prosecution of acts constituting Violence Against Women in Politics upon lawful request by competent authorities.

Failure to preserve such evidence after lawful notice may give rise to adverse evidentiary presumptions subject to the rules of court.

SECTION. 27. *Protection of Complainants and Witnesses.* - Complainants, witnesses, whistleblowers, and reporting individuals under this Act shall be entitled to protection under existing witness protection laws where applicable.

The COMELEC may coordinate with the **Department of Justice Witness Protection Program** for cases involving credible threats to life, safety, or security.

SECTION. 28. *Confidentiality and Data Privacy Safeguards.* - All personal data collected under this Act shall be processed in accordance with the **Data Privacy Act of 2012** and related regulations.

Sensitive personal information of complainants, witnesses, and victims shall be treated as confidential and may only be disclosed when necessary for lawful investigation, prosecution, or court proceedings.

Unauthorized disclosure of confidential information obtained through VAWP reporting mechanisms shall be punishable under applicable laws.

SECTION. 29. *Congressional Oversight.* - A Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on VAWP is hereby created to review and evaluate the implementation of this Act, composed of six (6) members, each from the Senate and the House of Representatives, and elected by each chamber. The Committee shall receive semi-annual compliance reports from the COMELEC, DILG, CHR, DICT, PCW, and other relevant agencies, review implementation of this Act, and shall recommend legislative amendments to strengthen enforcement.

SECTION. 30. *Collection and Publication of Sex-Disaggregated Electoral Data.* - The Commission on Elections (COMELEC), in coordination with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), shall institutionalize the collection, consolidation, and publication of sex-disaggregated data across all phases of the electoral process, consistent with applicable election and data privacy laws.

The data collected shall include, where feasible:

a) the gender composition of registered voters and candidates across national, local, and party-list elections;

b) reported incidents of VAWP during the election period, disaggregated by type, location, and other relevant demographic factors;

c) voter turnout and electoral outcomes, including comparative data on the participation and success rates of women candidates; and

d) gender-related patterns affecting overseas voters and marginalized sectors, where applicable.

The COMELEC shall publish such information in a Gender in Elections Report or similar public report, which shall be made accessible for policy development, research, and public information, subject to applicable confidentiality and data privacy safeguards.

SECTION. 31. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), and the Philippine Commission on Women

(PCW). Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Furthermore, all implementing agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs) are hereby authorized and mandated to utilize at least five percent (5%) of their annual Gender and Development (GAD) Budget for the development of VAWP prevention programs, the establishment of Rapid Response Desks, and the provision of survivor support services.

SECTION. 32. *Transitory Provisions.* - To ensure an orderly transition and immediate compliance, the following timelines are hereby established:

1)Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR): Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the COMELEC, in coordination with the PCW, CHR, DILG, and DICT, shall promulgate the IRR.

2)Digital Platform Compliance: All social media platforms and digital intermediaries covered by Section 12 shall have sixty (60) days from the promulgation of the IRR to appoint their Resident Agent and establish the Priority Redress Channel with the COMELEC.

3)Political Party Compliance: All registered political parties and party-lists shall have one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act to submit their internal Anti-VAWP Policies and evidence of the establishment of their Committees on Discipline and Gender Equality.

4)Baseline Data Collection: The CHR, as the official data custodian, shall complete the initial baseline study on VAWP in the Philippines within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION. 33. *Separability Clause.*- If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION. 34. *Repealing Clause.*- All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION. 35. *Effectivity.*- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,