



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9412



Introduced by Representative Jernie Jett V. Nisay

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The rapid growth of social media and digital platforms has accelerated the spread of fake news and online disinformation in the Philippines. According to a 2025 survey by Publicus Asia, 68% of Filipinos rely on internet search engines for political and current affairs information, while 66% rely on Facebook, making online platforms among the primary sources of information for the public.¹ At the same time, the survey noted that the prevalence of fake news and disinformation has significantly eroded public trust in media and information sources.²

Recent reports likewise show the increasing scale of online misinformation in the country. A Rappler report documented a rise in AI-generated and manipulated content, reporting that at least 57 fact-check articles in 2024 involved AI-generated or altered images, videos, and audio used to spread disinformation.³

The unchecked spread of false information online poses serious risks to public order, democratic institutions, public health, and national security. Disinformation campaigns have been used to manipulate public opinion, sow division, undermine confidence in government institutions, and mislead citizens on matters of national importance.

Recognizing the State's duty to protect the public and uphold the people's right to accurate information, this bill seeks to penalize the malicious and deliberate creation and dissemination of fake news and online disinformation that threaten public interest and safety. It also aims to strengthen accountability in digital platforms while promoting responsible and ethical use of online communication technologies.

Through this measure, the government seeks to protect the integrity of public discourse and safeguard the Filipino people from the harmful effects of online falsehoods and deceptive digital content.

¹ Publicus Asia Survey, as cited in Philippine News Agency, "Fake news lowers trust in PH mainstream media – survey" (April 7, 2025).

² Ibid.

³ Rappler, "Philippines faces rising AI-driven disinformation" (December 13, 2024).

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

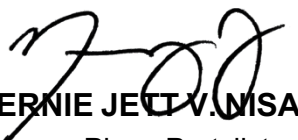
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REP. JERNIE JETT V. MISAY
Pusong Pinoy Partylist



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AN ACT

**PENALIZING THE MALICIOUS AND DELIBERATE DISSEMINATION OF FALSE
INFORMATION THAT UNDERMINES PUBLIC ORDER OR NATIONAL SECURITY,
STRENGTHENING REGULATIONS ON FAKE NEWS THROUGH DIGITAL
PLATFORMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Anti-Fake News and
Disinformation Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State recognizes the increasing threat posed by
the intentional dissemination of false information, especially through digital and social
media platforms, which may endanger public safety, erode democratic institutions, and
threaten national security. Towards this end, the State shall penalize such conduct,
consistent with constitutional protections and human rights standards.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as
follows:

- a. Fake News - refers to false or misleading information presented as fact or
news, deliberately and maliciously disseminated to mislead the public, that
may sow confusion, incite hatred or violence, or disrupt public order;
- b. Disinformation - refers to false information intentionally spread to deceive,
manipulate, or influence public perception, behavior, or policy;
- c. Social Media Platforms - refer to websites, mobile applications, or other digital
systems enabling users to create, share, or disseminate content, including

but not limited to Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, (formerly Twitter), and other similar platforms;

- d. Cyber-Enabled Dissemination - refers to the use of internet-enabled technologies and platforms to commit acts penalized under this Act, including through bots, trolls, or coordinated inauthentic behavior; and
- e. Malicious Intent - refers to the deliberate or reckless disregard for truth, with the purpose of causing harm, panic, hatred, violence, or undermining trust in institutions.

SEC. 4. *Prohibited Acts.* - It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Knowingly and maliciously publish or disseminate, through any medium including print, broadcast, or digital and social media, any fake news or disinformation as defined in Section 3;
- b. Create, operate, or finance troll farms, bot networks, or coordinated campaigns specifically aimed at spreading fake news;
- c. Disseminate fake news or disinformation that incites violence, promotes hate speech, discredits democratic institutions, or may cause public panic or disorder; or
- d. Facilitate or allow the use of social media platforms or accounts to repeatedly and systematically engage in the conduct described above.

SEC. 5. *Cybercrime Linkage.* - The provisions of Republic Act No. 10175, otherwise known as the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012, shall apply suppletorily when the offenses under this Act are committed through computer systems or digital networks, particularly on:

- a. Jurisdiction and venue;
- b. Preservation and disclosure of computer data;
- c. Real-time collection of traffic data;
- d. Cooperation with service providers; and
- e. Law enforcement authority

SEC. 6. *Penalties.* - Any person found guilty of violating Section 4 shall suffer imprisonment of six (6) years to twelve (12) years and a fine of not less than PhP500,000 but not more than PhP2,000,000, or both, at the discretion of the court. In accordance with prevailing rules, jurisdiction shall lie with the Regional Trial Courts (RTCs).

SEC. 7. *Relation to Article 154 of the Revised Penal Code.* -

- a. Offenses punishable under Article 154 of the Revised Penal Code that are committed through information and communications technologies or digital platforms shall be prosecuted under this Act, subject to the higher penalties and the procedural provisions of R.A. No. 10175.

- 1 b. Where applicable, the offender may be prosecuted under both this Act and
2 Article 154, provided that the constitutional prohibition against double
3 jeopardy is not violated.

4 **SEC. 8. *Aggravating Circumstances.*** - The maximum penalty shall be imposed if any
5 of the following aggravating circumstances are present:

- 6 a. The offense endangers or undermines national security, public safety, or
7 diplomatic relations;
8 b. The fake news relates to or interferes with elections, public health
9 emergencies, disaster response, or peace negotiations;
10 c. The offender is a public officer, elected official, journalist, or social media
11 influencer with 50,000 or more followers or subscribers, who knowingly
12 leverages their platform to spread disinformation;
13 d. The act is committed using automated or coordinated digital systems,
14 including the use of troll farms, bots, or sock puppet networks;
15 e. The fake news is disseminated with the direct or indirect aid of a foreign
16 government, foreign entity, or foreign individual, including financial, logistical,
17 technical, or cyber infrastructure support, with the intent or effect of
18 influencing public opinion, destabilizing institutions, or undermining
19 democratic processes.

20
21 **SEC. 9. *Exceptions.*** - This Act shall not apply to:

- 22 a. Clearly labeled satire, parody, or editorial content;
23 b. Personal opinions or interpretations that do not claim to state factual
24 assertions;
25 c. Honest mistakes made without malicious intent;
26 d. News reporting or academic discourse made in good faith and with
27 reasonable verification of sources.

28
29 **Sec. 10. *Judicial Recourse and Appeals.*** -

- 30 a. All prosecutions under this Act shall be filed in the RTC of the province or city
31 where the offense was committed, or where the content was first accessed
32 or downloaded.
33 b. The accused shall be entitled to legal counsel, to confront witnesses, and to
34 a fair and public trial under the Rules of Court.
35 c. Injunctive relief or constitutional remedies (e.g., habeas corpus, amparo,
36 certiorari may be sought by the accused if the enforcement of this Act results
37 in violation of fundamental rights.
38 d. The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) may provide legal and monitoring
39 assistance in cases alleging abuse of this Act for political or retaliatory
40 purposes.

41 **Sec. 11. *Designation of Liaison Officers by Social Media Platforms.*** -

- 1 a. All social media platforms operating within the Philippines or providing
2 services to users in the Philippines shall designate a duly authorized liaison
3 officer to the Department of Information and Communications Technology
4 (DICT).
- 5 b. The liaison officer shall serve as the platform's official point of contact for
6 matters involving:
- 7 i. Compliance with this Act and other cyber-related laws;
8 ii. Coordination on takedown or moderation requests involving malicious
9 disinformation that threatens national security or public order;
10 iii. Emergency responses during critical events such as elections,
11 disasters, or public health crises; and
12 iv. Reporting obligations and transparency measures as may be required
13 by the DICT or Congress.
- 14 c. Social media platforms shall submit to the DICT:
- 15 i. The full name and contact information of the designated liaison;
16 ii. Updates to the designation within fifteen (15) days of any change;
17 iii. An annual report on the platform's enforcement actions related to
18 disinformation targeting Filipino users.
- 19 d. The DICT, in consultation with stakeholders, shall issue guidelines for the
20 registration, responsibilities, and performance evaluation of designated
21 liaisons within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

22
23 **SEC. 12. Oversight and Review Mechanism.** - A Joint Congressional Oversight
24 Committee composed of members from the Senate, House of Representatives, the
25 judiciary, and representatives from civil society and media organizations shall:

- 26 a. Monitor implementation of this Act;
27 b. Review enforcement procedures for potential abuse or overreach; and
28 c. Submit a report every three (3) years with recommendations for amendment
29 or repeal, if warranted.

30 **SEC. 13. Separability Clause.** - Should any provision of this Act be declared
31 unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected thereby shall remain valid and
32 operational.

33
34 **SEC. 14. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, circulars, issuances, rules and
35 regulations and parts thereof which are inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed,
36 amended or modified accordingly.

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38 **SEC. 15. Effectivity.** - This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
39 the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the
40 Philippines.

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42 *Approved,*