

Honorable YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ

Chairperson
Committee on the Welfare of Children
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear **Representative Romualdez**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) would like to submit a **Supplemental Position Paper** pertaining to the proposed measures on "**Child Friendly Internet Act**" particularly on HBN 2203 or the "*Anti-Deadly Online Viral Challenge*", introduced by Rep. Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, HBN 2517 or the "*Child Friendly Internet Service Act*", introduced by Rep. Divina Grace C. Yu, HBN 5407 or the "*Children's Online Privacy Protection Act*", introduced by Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, and House Bill No. 5542 or the "*Electronic Gadget-Free Schools Act*", introduced by Rep. Florida P. Robes, all of which seek to protect children against the adverse effects of deadly online or character-based video games, and violent social media content detrimental to their growth, development, and health. Further, the measures require internet service providers to create child friendly internet package with accompanying penalties for violation, and the promotion of an electronic gadget-free schools both private and public.

To contribute to the bills' further enhancement, herewith are additional recommendations of the Department:

1. On **HBN 2203 or Anti-Deadly Online Viral Challenge**

To **provide authority to the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)** to mandate Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Internet Content Host to report to proper authorities, i.e., Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Department of Justice (DOJ) or DSWD, and to immediately take down any materials in their system that will be detrimental to the social, physical and psychological health of children.

2. On **Sec. 12 – Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) of HBN 2517 or Child Friendly Internet Service Act**, to **include** the DepEd, NTC, and National Privacy Commission in the formulation of the IRR.

3. On **HBN 5407 or Children's Online Privacy Protection Act**

3.1 To **strongly implement registration guidelines** to ensure that the implementation of strict monitoring and reporting for children-users who fall under the prescribed age;

3.2 To **include a provision** requiring information/data of cases of Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and other violence against children online to be made immediately available to proper authorities, such as the PNP, NBI, DOJ or DSWD; and

3.3 To **consider existing Child Online Safe Guarding Policy** under Republic Act No. 10929 or the “**Free Internet Access in Public Places Act**”.

4. On **HBN 5542 or Electronic Gadget-Free Act**

To **incorporate current efforts on child online protection programs** from national government agencies, such as the Department of Information and Communications Technology, Department of Education (DepEd), and from civil society organizations in empowering children, families, and communities on how to make the internet safe for children, including the use of mobiles phones and use of social media applications.

5. **Other Comments:**

5.1 To **include a provision strengthening the Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography** by allocating a budget that will allow member-agencies to implement programs that will mitigate, prevent and respond to OSAEC cases, particularly programs along development and enhancement of school-based protective and response measures. Also, to develop the capacity of teaching and non-teaching personnel to immediately respond to victim-survivors of OSAEC;

5.2 To **promote and enhance family-based protection and response mechanisms** by educating parents and balancing privacy and safety of children;

5.3 To **align all programs** to the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children, the National Response Plan on OSAEC, and the National Plan of Action on Children, among others;

5.4 To **designate a government central authority** where ISPs and Internet-Content Hosts are mandated to report Child Sexual Abuse Materials, OSAEC, and other violence against children online content in their system, similar to the roles and functions of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; and

5.5 To **develop a structured training program** for front liners, prosecutors and judges on digital forensic and literacy.

For the Committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,



ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA

Secretary **MAR 17 2020**

Date: _____

LCI/CRM/AMCL


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