

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE
S. B. No. 2043



'18 OCT -2 AIO :17

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

RECEIVED

AN ACT
DECLARING THE SECOND TUESDAY OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS
NATIONAL SAFER INTERNET DAY IN THE PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Internet in the country first became available on March 29, 1994 through the Philnet project. Since then, the Philippines has maintained connectivity with the global community at an increasing trend. In fact, according to the Internet World Stat's ranking, the Philippines ranked 12th among the top 20 internet users globally which means that 67 million out of 104 million Filipinos – or 63% of the total population¹– are using the internet to stay connected with their families and friends; to access news and information; to share photos, videos and stories; to play online games or even do online purchasing².

This bill declares the second Tuesday of February of every year as National Safer Internet Day as a call to action to promote better, safer, responsible and positive use of internet to every Filipino user. This bill mandates the Department on Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to design and implement activities in celebration of the National Safer Internet Day with the aim of highlighting our responsibilities in creating a better and safer online community.

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

SONNY ANGARA

¹ <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/06/11/1823578/top-internet-users-philippines-ranks-12th>

² <https://research-publishing.net/publication/chapters/978-1-908416-17-9/176.pdf>

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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Senate
Office of the Secretary

SENATE
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'18 OCT -2 A10 :17

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Safer Internet Day*
2 *Act*”.

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Principles.* – The State recognizes the vital role of
4 information and communications technology in nation-building and the importance
5 of providing an environment conducive to the development, acceleration, and
6 rational application and exploitation of these technologies to attain free, easy, and
7 intelligible access to exchange and/or delivery of information. Thus, it is the
8 obligation of the State to promote safer and more responsible use of online
9 technology and mobile phones, especially amongst children and young people across
10 the country.

11 Sec. 3. *National Safer Internet Day.* – Every second Tuesday of February of
12 each year shall hereby be declared as National Safer Internet Day.

13 Sec. 4. *Implementing Agency.* – The Department of Information and
14 Communications Technology (DICT), in close coordination with the Department of
15 Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), shall plan, design, and implement
16 programs and activities in celebration of the National Safer Internet Day every year.
17 Other national government agencies, local government units, and other government
18 instrumentalities shall actively participate in the activities of this celebration.

1 Sec. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or the Official Gazette.

Approved,