

Andanar to netizens: Don't believe 'fake' news on social media

MANILA – Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Martin Andanar on Thursday reminded netizens to verify the information from social media to avoid spread of “fake” news.

Andanar said everyone should be skeptical about suspicious reports that intend to taint the reputation of the government.

“Kailangan talaga na hindi tayo [magkaroon ng] knee-jerk reaction sa lahat nang nakikita, lalonglalo na ngayong panahon na ito (We should avoid having knee-jerk reaction to what we see, especially nowadays),” Andanar said on the sidelines of the launching of the Youth for Truth Caravan in Las Piñas City.

‘Kailangan i-verify natin ng husto ‘yung mga balita na nangatanggap natin (We have to first verify the news we are receiving),” he added.

Andanar made the call, as he lambasted the opposition for politicizing the Philippines’ hosting of the 30th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games.

The Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee, led by House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano, earlier decried the supposedly pattern of fake news carried by several news outfits ahead of the formal opening of the biennial sports meet on November 30.

The alleged “kikiam,” which was actually chicken sausage, that was served to the Philippine women’s football for breakfast was among the false news reported by some media.

It was also found that the viral photo of the Biñan Sports Complex and the supposed makeshift press center that was photographed by lo-

cal and international media, which both turned out to be misrepresentation of truth.

Andanar lamented that instead of supporting the country’s hosting of SEA Games, critics opted to purvey “malicious” and “fake” information.

Napaka-malisyo ng mga ginagawa, lalo na ng mga kalaban natin sa politika, na i-politicize itong SEA Games at nagpakalat ng fake news (Other people, including our political enemies, are making malicious move to politicize SEA Games. They are spreading fake news),” Andanar said.

“SEA Games is supposed to be friendship games for our nation and other Southeast Asian nations. And it’s supposed to be an opportunity for the country to showcase itself worldwide,” he added.

Disinformation affect PH dev't

Andanar cautioned that propagating false news could yield grave repercussions for the country’s progress.

He stressed the need for media literacy as he warned that disinformation can ignite “animosity.”

“Kapag nagpakalat po tayo ng malaling impormasyon, ng maling balita (If we are spreading false information, false news), this actually ignites animosity. Pwedeng magaway... dahil sa malaling balita (False reports could sow tension),” he said.

“This affects the relationship [between] people. ‘Pag naapektuhan yung relationship, syempre yung ating pag unlad ay naapektuhan din (If it affects relationship, of course,

it also affects our development),” he added.

Andanar urged the public, especially the youth, to take part in fighting the spread of fake news that are propagated to discredit the government’s efforts in nation-building.

or the PCOO’s part, it would continue raising public awareness against false news by providing platforms of media education, the PCOO chief said.

On Tuesday, Andanar said his office is pushing for media literacy initiatives to make the Duterte government’s policies and programs more transparent to the public. (PNA)

DepEd ‘on right track’ to address gaps in basic education

MANILA — The Department of Education (DepEd) is “on the right track” to improve the quality of basic education in the country, Malacañang said on Thursday after the Philippines posted a poor ranking in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2018.

“Our education officials are on the right track as we address the issues and gaps in the basic education sector,” Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said in a statement.

“These include a continuing review of the K to 12 program, improving our students’ learning facilities and retooling the knowledge and skills of our teachers,” he added.

The Philippines showed a dismal performance in reading, math, and science out of the 79 member and partner countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), according to the results of the PISA 2018.

The Philippines scored lowest in reading comprehension and the

second-lowest in science and mathematics assessment conducted by the inter-government group OECD last year.

The Philippines registered 340 points in reading, below the average of 487 points of OECD member and partner countries; 353 points in Mathematical Literacy, below the average of 489 points; and 357 points in Science, below the average of 489 points.

The PISA, launched by OECD in 1997, is an international study that surveys its members and partner countries every three years for comparative data on 15-year-old’s performance in reading, mathematics, and science.

On Wednesday, DepEd said the Philippines joined the PISA for the first time to establish a baseline for its reform initiatives on quality basic education.

Panelo said the Palace welcomes the move of DepEd Secretary Leonor Briones to evaluate the country’s basic education by comparing its performance with other nations.



SHARPENING THE SKILLS OF BARANGAY TANOD ON TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT: Committed on his advocacy on traffic management, Governor Jonvic Remulla remains optimistic that road safety and traffic management be taught in all the barangay tanod in the province. On November 20, 2019, one hundred forty nine barangays in the municipalities of Amadeo, Indang and Tanza and the cities of General Trias and Trece Martires were able to send their barangay tanod for a seminar/lecture on traffic management held at the provincial gymnasium in Trece Martires City. The participants were educated on road traffic apprehensions, rightful manners in accommodating traffic disruptions, compliant behaviors on handling obstruction on normal traffic flow and other matters pertaining to traffic management through the help of the Road and Safety Division led by Mr. Rolando Alvaran. Moreover, they were given complete traffic gears including vest, boots, gloves and flash lights. They were also given packs of rice. In attendance during the seminar for tanod were 6th District Board Member Kerby Salazar, 7th District Board Member Lito Langit, TreceMartires City Mayor Gemma Lubigan and some city and municipal councilors . --- Gina Perlado Perena

He also took note of the current administration’s courage to “open the eyes” of Filipinos with regard to the real status of the education system in the Philippines.

“The Office of the President thus opts to

take a constructive view of the results of this global ranking testing system of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development,” he said.

“In sum, our government’s joining in this assessment pro-

gram signifies that this Administration is unafraid to open the eyes of the Filipino people to the reality in order for us to ascertain what steps to undertake so we can perform better in the aspect of education,” Panelo added. (PNA)

Nograles backs new initiative to raise quality of education

MANILA -- Recognizing the importance of education in improving the lives of Filipinos, a Palace official expressed support for a new government initiative that will focus on raising the quality of education on several fronts.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles backed the Department of Education’s (DepEd) Sulong EduKalidad or Sama-samang Pagsulong ng EduKalidad (National Effort for Quality Basic Education) program which was launched on Tuesday.

Under the program, the department aims to improve on four key areas namely updating of the K-12 curriculum; in-

stituting improvements in the learning environment of our students; encouraging multi-stakeholder support and cooperation (private sector, LGUs, immediate community; civil society); and adopting programs focused on the upskilling and reskilling of teachers to address current gaps.

In a statement, Nograles emphasized the need for such a program to help enhance the learning outcomes of students amid declining assessment scores.

“We have the resources to make this program work, we have a national government that is behind you 100 percent, and we have a President who is a believer in the power of

education to uplift the lives of our people,” Nograles said.

Nograles, an education advocate, said investing in education has yielded positive results such as improved enrollment rates among all levels.

He said net enrollment rates (NER) in kindergarten, elementary, junior, and senior high school continue to rise, with primary and secondary NERs up to 94.2 percent and 76 percent, respectively.

On the other hand, the country’s cohort survival rate (CSR) and completion rates have consistently risen while dropout rates have been decreasing at both the primary and secondary levels, he added.