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THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON MODERN POLICING IN DISTRICT 7 PROVINCE OF CAVITE

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ABSTRACT

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The study used qualitative research which aimed to; (1) describe how social media affects the policing of Philippine National Police, District 7 Province of Cavite in terms of public; 1.1 communication; and 1.2 crime solving; (2) determine the positive impacts of social media on policing; (3) determine the negative impacts of social media on policing; (4) identify the specific challenges encountered by the Philippine National Police, District 7, Province of Cavite on the use of social media on policing.

The participants of the study were 25 police officers; 10 females and 15 males from four selected cities/municipalities and/or stations in District 7, Province of Cavite: Amadeo, Indang, Tanza, and Trece Martirez City.

After a careful and thorough analysis of the gathered data, important findings were drawn. The study revealed how convenient social media is in communicating with the citizens. In addition, social media is used by the police in communicating with the public to inform them on programs, activities, policies and the likes in modern policing.

The selected police officers also observed that social media contributes to solve the crime and prevent its occurrence. Such examples are: apprehension of criminals; shorten the time to respond; locate the person in danger, locating missing person and utilization of e-Reklamo pages, assist in the investigation, promoting anti-criminality campaign and profiling of suspects and criminals online.

The study indicates that the use of social media has a positive impact on modern policing of the selected officers in terms of public communication and crime solving. However, social media also bring negative impacts like unverified information and fake news circulating online about the PNP that inciting the netizens to criticize

the whole organization. The officers are also having a problem in keeping their information confidential online.

In addition, with the use of social media, netizens could easily attack a police officer's character, ruining the organization's image, compromising their integrity, affecting them emotionally, and may cause irreparable damage to the officer's reputation and credibility.

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INTRODUCTION

Social media has become the most evident product of today's technology. Perrin (2015) stated that the popularity of social media has grown to the point where nearly two-thirds (65%) of all adults use the websites. Hu *et al.*, (2018) stated that police agencies in the USA use social media as a tool for public safety promotion on a wide basis.

The 2016 International Association of Chiefs of Police survey reports that about 96 percent of the police agencies responding to the survey have used social media. The 2015 International Association of Chiefs of Police survey indicates that Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube are the three social media platforms most widely used by police agencies. The survey indicates that about 94 percent of police agencies were using Facebook, 71.2 percent were using Twitter, and about 40 percent were using YouTube. Social media platforms gave policing a wider opportunity to gather and disseminate information. If deemed necessary, some investigators take this opportunity to do undercover and to gather evidence (Klausen, 2015).

According to Meijer and Thaens (2013), social media is now being used by the police in America to enhance citizens input in police investigations, to strengthen the public image of police departments, to control crowds, to tackle crises, to obtain better