

## Social Engagement in Philippine Politics, Indicative of Strong Political Foundation or Fanaticism?

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### Abstract

Social engagement of Filipinos in online political discourses has been observed to reach high from the beginning of the presidential race in 2022. It traced a mark that the overwhelming engagement from the netizens arise to the notion that Filipino interest in politics may lead to the argument that they are also sufficiently equipped with political knowledge. This preliminary study describes the general public's political inclination toward highly-engaged political posts on Facebook. Researchers systematically selected two public posts from the top two presidential from released surveys, VP Leni Robredo and former Senator Bongbong Marcos, as an avenue for political discourse, after announcing their bid for the highest position. Only the first 100 most relevant from the post were lifted and managed in the google sheets. The researchers associate the "feelings" of an observer of comments using Conley's emotional equations (2012). This process leads to substantiating the hunch as thoughts observed obtain 3rd level "strong" emotions that are adequately linked to Aribowo et al. paper about fanatics' characteristics: a) uncritical enthusiasm, b) extreme belief, c) disability of rationality, and d) irrational commitment. Overall, netizens' comments may be grouped into positive and negative fanaticism as proven and justified. It tells us the current state of the public's level of perception and opinion about Philippine politics: shallow and blinded support for candidates. It minimally exhibits a high level of knowledge and discourse about politics.

**Keywords:** discourse; emotional equation; fanaticism; fanatics; knowledge