



OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
House of Representatives
20th Congress

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Speaker

Message

Books have always been more than a source of information. We turn to them to learn, to understand the world around us, and sometimes simply to enjoy a good story. Whatever our reason for reading, every book gives us the opportunity to think, imagine, question, and see things from a different perspective.

These are skills that are critical today, in a time when information reaches us faster than ever before. Every day, we encounter countless headlines, posts, videos, and opinions competing for our attention. Not everything we read or see online is accurate, and not everything presented as fact deserves to be believed.

Reading helps us develop the patience and insight necessary to look beyond headlines, to ask the hard questions, and to learn the critical thinking needed to distinguish fact from misinformation. It teaches us to examine ideas, understand context, and consider different points of view before reaching our own conclusions.

This is why the Manila International Book Fair continues to be important. By bringing together readers, writers, publishers, educators, and advocates of literacy, it reminds us that books remain relevant even in an increasingly digital world. Whether we read for education, professional growth, inspiration, or entertainment, books enrich our lives and broaden our understanding of others.



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We in the House of Representatives believe that an informed and engaged citizenry is essential to a strong democracy. Our task is not only to expand access to education and information, but also to help build a society where Filipinos are equipped to understand, evaluate, and make responsible use of what they learn.

My warmest congratulations to the organizers, authors, publishers, exhibitors, educators, and everyone behind the Manila International Book Fair. Thank you for continuing to create spaces where Filipinos can discover new stories, encounter new ideas, and rediscover the simple joy of reading.

May we continue to raise generations of Filipinos who read not only to know more, but to understand better, think more deeply, and make wiser choices for themselves, their communities, and our country.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

