



# NATION

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## Social media heats up over govt ban on personal use of office PCs

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Facebook turned 11 years old on Wednesday. The past week also marked a time when many Thai social media users reflected on how we have been using the powerful platform.

The Department of Public Administration director-general recently issued an order to provincial governors telling them to make sure their subordinates do not use government computers for personal purposes, as doing so could violate the Computer Crime Act or other laws. That includes the use of social media or personal email.

The order became the talk of the town only briefly.

Meanwhile, a musician in Phetchabun was arrested this week for allegedly distributing a fake announcement from the Royal Household Bureau, the development quickly spreading via Facebook, Twitter and Line on Monday evening.

Many people tried to spread the word that the announcement was fake but it was too late – a news outlet publicised it on its website and its webmaster was sacked.

Meanwhile, a Supreme Court verdict was widely circulated on Line and Web boards. It says an employer can fire an employee without notice if the employee uses social media during office hours.

Once again, domestic and international politics was a hot social media topic, especially the visit to Thailand of US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Russel, as well as other issues like the digital-related bills and Dhammakaya Temple monks' procession on the streets.

The murders of a Japanese hostage and a Jordanian hostage by ISIS was another hotly discussed topic, with photos and videos of their brutal deaths circulated. Thai Journalists Association spokesman Manop Thip-osod asked the media to respect the victims and their families and refrain from posting graphic pictures.

Yuu Aj posted: "It should be common sense what is suitable or not suitable to be posted publicly. Mark Zuckerberg doesn't force anyone to post everything on Fb/IG [Instagram]."

The TransAsia's plane crash in Taiwan also generated much interest.

On Twitter, a group of people had a war of words over the tweets of a female doctor who likes to post information about her personal life. She has now closed her account.

Someone whose Facebook account is very much active is Buddhist writer Dungtrin, who posted: "When you keep checking out someone's Facebook even though you don't love or like that person can be explained in two ways: either you want to see that person fall or you want to find a way to have that person fall. If that person falls some day, you will mistakenly be glad. If that person does not fall, you will feel more and more upset."

On the bright side, a picture of Apitchaya Palmy Malasri, a new graduate from Mae Fah Luang University who put her graduation gown on her mother, was widely shared. She explained in a poem that her mother deserved to wear the gown because she had provided the financial resources to make her graduation happen.

Meanwhile, Collective Evolution posted this message: "Buddha was not Buddhist. Jesus was not Christian. Muhammad was not Muslim. They were teachers who taught love. Love was their religion."

And this may be the perfect "Like It, Share It" ending for the column this week before Valentine's Day next week.