

Media Release

Minister for Trade and Industry Instructs POFMA Office to Issue Correction Direction and Targeted Correction Direction

Singapore – 31 January 2020: The Minister for Trade and Industry has instructed POFMA Office to issue a Correction Direction¹ to Mr Alex Tan, and a Targeted Correction Direction² to Facebook.

2. This is with regard to Mr Tan’s “States Times Review” Facebook post on 30 January 2020, 10.10am, which falsely claimed that Singapore had run out of face masks.

3. For facts of the case, please refer to the Factually article, “Corrections And clarifications regarding falsehoods published by States Times Review on availability of face masks” (www.gov.sg/article/factually-clarifications-on-falsehoods-posted-by-str-on-availability-of-face-masks).

4. We wish to remind members of the public to not speculate and/or spread rumours. Channels to get accurate and up-to-date information on the Wuhan Coronavirus situation in Singapore include MOH’s official website (www.moh.gov.sg) and Gov.sg WhatsApp (<http://go.gov.sg/whatsapp>). Any suspected falsehoods can be reported to info@pofmaoffice.gov.sg.

¹ A **Correction Direction** is a Direction issued to a person who has communicated a falsehood (i.e. the recipient) that affects the public interest. It requires the recipient to publish a correction notice, providing access to the correct facts. The Direction does not require the recipient to take down their post or make edits to their content, and does not impose criminal sanctions.

² A **Targeted Correction Direction** is a Direction issued to an Internet Intermediary (“II”), whose service was used to communicate a falsehood that affects the public interest. The Direction requires the II to communicate a correction notice by means of its service to all users in Singapore who access the falsehood through its service. This is so that users who see the falsehood on a platform also see the correction notice on that platform.

About the POFMA Office

The POFMA Office, situated within the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), is responsible for the administration of the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA). For more information about POFMA Office, visit www.pofmaoffice.gov.sg.

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