

## Media Release

### **“NATIONAL TIMES SINGAPORE” FACEBOOK PAGE MADE A DECLARED ONLINE LOCATION UNDER POFMA**

The Minister for Communications and Information has today declared the National Times Singapore (NTS) Facebook page a Declared Online Location (DOL) under the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA). The Declaration will come into effect on 29 May 2020.

2. Under the Declaration, the NTS Facebook page, which is operated by Mr Alex Tan, is required to carry a notice stating that it has been declared a DOL. With the notice, visitors to the Facebook page will be warned that it has a history of communicating falsehoods. The Declaration will also make it an offence for Tan to derive benefit from operating the NTS Facebook page, and will prohibit the provision of financial support to it for the purposes of supporting, helping or promoting the communication of falsehoods.

3. The NTS Facebook page communicated numerous false statements of fact in a post published on 15 May 2020<sup>1</sup>, at least three of which were the subject of a POFMA Direction. In recent months, Tan has created and operated Facebook pages which sought to derive monetary benefits from falsehoods at the expense of Singaporeans and our society. These pages have been declared DOLs<sup>2</sup>. So far, neither these pages nor Tan have complied with any of the requirements of the POFMA Directions and Declarations that they have been served with.

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION**  
**28 May 2020**

<sup>1</sup> For facts of the case, please refer to Factually article, “Corrections and clarifications regarding Facebook post by National Times Singapore (“NTS”)” ([www.gov.sg/article/factually270520](http://www.gov.sg/article/factually270520))

<sup>2</sup> These pages include (i) the States Times Review Facebook page (declared DOL on 15 Feb 2020); (ii) the Singapore States Times Facebook page (declared DOL on 6 May 2020); and (iii) Alex Tan’s Facebook page (declared DOL on 6 May 2020)

