

## **Media Release**

### **Alternate Authority for the Minister charged with the Responsibility for the Portfolio of the Prime Minister insofar as it relates to the National Population and Talent Division Instructs POFMA Office to Issue Correction Directions**

**Singapore – 3 July 2020:** The Alternate Authority for the Minister charged with the responsibility for the portfolio of the Prime Minister insofar as it relates to the National Population and Talent Division, has instructed POFMA Office to issue Correction Directions<sup>1</sup> to Facebook users “Ryann Smith”, “Jafri Basron” and “Denise Fletcher”, as well as to the “Sin Rak Sin Party” Facebook page.

2 They had posted screenshots of, or linked to, an article which contained a false statement that the Urban Redevelopment Authority has released a “plan to build underground infrastructure ready for 10 million population”.

3 The Government has clarified Singapore’s population plans on multiple occasions: **(i)** in Parliament in March 2018, when it projected Singapore’s total population is likely to be significantly below 6.9 million by 2030 **(ii)** in two Factly articles (‘What is the aim of Government population policies?’<sup>2</sup> in March 2020, and “Does the Government have a population target e.g. 10 million?”<sup>3</sup> in July 2020), and **(iii)** in a media statement<sup>4</sup> issued by the National Population and Talent Division (NPTD) on 1 July 2020. The media statement also stated that the publication of such falsehoods damages the public interest by undermining legitimate and honest discussion, and that appropriate action may be taken against any further publication of such falsehoods. Despite the latest clarification, the falsehood continues to be repeated.

4 For facts of the case, please refer to the Factly article, “Corrections and clarifications regarding posts of falsehoods from an article by The Online Citizen” ([www.gov.sg/article/factly030720a](http://www.gov.sg/article/factly030720a)).

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.sg/article/what-is-the-aim-of-government-population-policies>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.sg/article/does-the-government-have-a-population-target>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.strategygroup.gov.sg/media-centre/press-releases/clarification-regarding-recent-statements-on-singapore-population-target>

**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](http://www.pofmaoffice.gov.sg).*

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