

Media Release

Alternate Authority for the Minister for Foreign Affairs Instructs POFMA Office to Issue Correction Directions

Singapore - 29 June 2020: The Alternate Authority for the Minister for Foreign Affairs has instructed POFMA Office to issue a Correction Direction¹ each to the 'State News Singapore' Facebook page and Mr Alex Tan's Facebook page, as well as a Targeted Correction Direction² to Facebook.

2. The 'State News Singapore' Facebook page made false statements of fact about cross-border travel arrangements between Singapore and Malaysia in a post published on 27 June 2020. This false statement of fact was shared by Mr Tan's Facebook page.³

3. For facts of the case, please refer to the Factually article, "Corrections and clarifications regarding the falsehood on cross-border travel arrangements between Singapore and Malaysia" (www.gov.sg/article/factually290620).

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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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.

³ The 'States News Singapore' and Alex Tan Facebook pages were created on 30 May 2020 and 6 June 2020 respectively, after the "States Times Review" (STR), the "Singapore States Times" (SST), the "National Times Singapore" (NTS) and Tan's Facebook pages, were made Declared Online Locations. All four pages, which are created and operated by Tan, did not comply with the Declarations. POFMA Office thus issued orders to Facebook to disable access for Singapore users to the STR, SST, NTS and Tan's Facebook pages.