

Media Release

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION DIRECTS POFMA OFFICE TO ISSUE DISABLING ORDER

The Minister for Communications and Information has directed POFMA Office to order Facebook to disable Singapore users' access to the National Times Singapore (NTS) Facebook page, under Section 34 of the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA).

2. The NTS Facebook page, which is operated by Mr Alex Tan, has communicated at least three false statements of fact. It has not complied with the POFMA Direction that it was served with for a post published on 15 May 2020¹. After being notified on 28 May 2020 that it had been declared a Declared Online Location (DOL), the page has not complied with the Declaration's requirement to publish a notice stating that it has been declared a DOL. The notice serves to warn visitors to the NTS Facebook page of the falsehoods that the page has communicated.

3. This is the fourth Facebook page operated by Tan to be subject to a Disabling Order².

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
30 May 2020

¹ For facts of the case, please refer to Factly article, "Corrections and clarifications regarding Facebook post by National Times Singapore ("NTS")" (www.gov.sg/article/factly270520)

² The "States Times Review" (STR) Facebook page; as well as the "Singapore States Times" (SST) and Alex Tan's Facebook pages, were declared DOLs on 16 Feb 2020 and 6 May 2020, respectively. All three 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 Facebook page; as well as the SST and Tan's Facebook pages, on 17 Feb 2020 and 7 May 2020, respectively.

