

Media Release

Minister for Education Instructs POFMA Office to Issue Correction Directions and Targeted Correction Direction

Singapore – 5 May 2020: A false statement of fact was made on the “Singapore States Times” (SST) Facebook page on 4 May 2020, with respect to the COVID-19 cases in schools. The false statement of fact was also shared by Mr Alex Tan on his Facebook page.

2. The Minister for Education has instructed POFMA Office to issue two Correction Directions¹ to the SST Facebook page and to Mr Alex Tan, as well as a Targeted Correction Direction² to Facebook.

3. For facts of the case, please refer to the Factually article, “Corrections and clarifications regarding a falsehood published by Singapore States Times on COVID-19 cases in schools.” (www.gov.sg/article/factually-clarifications-on-falsehood-posted-by-sst-on-covid-19-cases-in-schools).

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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