

MDDI DIRECTS IMDA TO BLOCK ACCESS TO EAST ASIA FORUM FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CORRECTION DIRECTION UNDER THE PROTECTION FROM ONLINE FALSEHOODS AND MANIPULATION ACT (POFMA)

Singapore, 24 January 2025 – The East Asia Forum has failed to comply with the Correction Direction issued on 22 January 2025 to point out falsehoods in its article “Singapore’s new prime minister entangled in old politics” (“**the article**”). Consequently, the Minister for Digital Development and Information has directed the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) to issue Access Blocking Orders to require internet access service providers to disable access for end-users in Singapore to East Asia Forum’s website, where the falsehoods are communicated.

2. The Correction Direction issued to East Asia Forum on 22 January 2025 had required the facts to be displayed along with the falsehoods, enabling end-users in Singapore to read both versions and make their own judgements. Despite three reminders sent to East Asia Forum to comply with the Correction Direction, East Asia Forum has not complied (See Annex for details). Should East Asia Forum subsequently comply with the full requirements of the Correction Direction, the Minister will cancel the Access Blocking Orders.

3. The Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office Ms Indranee Rajah has also separately instructed POFMA Office to issue today, Targeted Correction Directions¹ to Meta Platforms, Inc., LinkedIn Corporation, and X Corp. This follows East Asia Forum’s failure to carry the Correction Notice in its Facebook, LinkedIn, and X posts linking to the same article. Meta Platforms, Inc., LinkedIn Corporation, and X Corp will be required to communicate a correction notice to all end-users in Singapore who had accessed, or will access, the posts.

4. For the full facts of the case, please refer to the Factually article “[Corrections Regarding False Statements on the Misuse of Government Resources, Conduct of the Prosecution, and Rules of Obligations for Ministers](#)”.

**Jointly issued by:
Ministry of Digital Development and Information
Prime Minister’s Office**

¹ A Targeted Correction Direction is a direction issued to an Internet Intermediary (“II”) whose service was used to communicate a falsehood. 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.

Timeline of interactions between POFMA Office and East Asia Forum

Date	Activity
22 January 2025, 10am	POFMA Office issued POFMA Correction Direction (CD) to East Asia Forum (EAF). EAF was requested to comply with the CD by 4pm on 22 January.
22 January 2025, 4pm	As there was no response from EAF, POFMA Office sent a reminder to EAF to comply with the CD.
22 January 2025, 10pm	As there was still no response from EAF, POFMA Office sent another reminder to EAF to comply with the CD.
23 January 2025, 2pm	EAF replied POFMA Office's email to state that they were "attending to this as quickly as possible in consultation within the university and with key stakeholders".
23 January 2025, 4pm	EAF posted an editorial response at the bottom of the article on their website to state their disagreement with the falsehoods identified. EAF did not take further action to comply with the CD.
23 January 2025, 6pm	POFMA Office replied to EAF's email, reminded them that the deadline to comply had passed, and that EAF could submit an application to vary the CD by 24 January, 4pm if they needed more time to comply with the requirements.
24 January 2025, 4pm	EAF did not respond to POFMA Office, nor comply with the CD. They also did not submit an application to vary the CD.
24 January 2025, 7pm	POFMA Office issued Targeted Correction Directions to Meta Platforms, Inc., LinkedIn Corporation, and X Corp with respect to EAF's social media posts relating to the article, as well as Access Blocking Orders to internet access service providers.