

Media Release

Minister in charge of the People’s Association Instructs POFMA Office to Issue Correction Directions

Singapore – 18 March 2020: False statements were made in several Facebook posts claiming that the People’s Association (PA) and/or the Residents’ Committees (RCs) were involved in the organisation of the dinner event at SAFRA Jurong on 15 February 2020 which a COVID-19 cluster was later traced to. These were posted and shared by Facebook users ‘Henryace Ace’, Mr Sebastian Ying, and Mr Lim Tean on both his pages (“Lim Tean” and “Tean Lim”).

2. Accordingly, the Minister in charge of PA, Chan Chun Sing, has instructed the POFMA Office to issue Correction Directions (CD)¹ against Facebook users ‘Henryace Ace’, Mr Sebastian Ying and Mr Lim Tean.

3. For facts of the case, please refer to the Factually article, “Corrections and clarifications regarding falsehoods that dinner event at SAFRA Jurong was organised by People’s Association” (www.gov.sg/article/factually-clarifications-on-falsehoods-on-safra-jurong-dinner).

4. Members of the public should rely on official channels such as the Ministry of Health’s official website (www.moh.gov.sg) and Gov.sg WhatsApp (<http://go.gov.sg/whatsapp>) to get accurate and up-to-date information on the COVID-19 situation in Singapore. Any suspected falsehoods can be reported to info@pofmaoffice.gov.sg.

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.

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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