

## **Media Statement**

### **Warning issued to TikTok user for POFMA offences**

**Singapore – 31 July 2024:** A conditional warning has been issued to a 58 year-old man for communicating false statements of fact and for failing to comply with POFMA Directions.

2. Between July and August 2023, the man published four videos on TikTok which contained falsehoods relating to voting secrecy, CPF policies and HDB affordability. Investigations revealed, among other things, that the falsehood on voting secrecy was based on hearsay and there was no supporting evidence for his claims. For the falsehoods pertaining to CPF policies and HDB affordability, he also failed to consult publicly available information on the CPF Board and Ministry of Manpower websites, before posting the falsehoods.

3. Under POFMA, falsehoods are usually addressed via Correction Directions which require recipients to place a notice, which is akin to a right of reply, next to the original post with a link to the Government's clarification. The clarification sets out the falsehoods and facts for the public to examine, without the original post being removed. Readers can read both the original post and the facts and decide for themselves what is the truth.

4. The man was issued Correction Directions. He failed to comply fully, including not putting up the required Correction Notices by the stipulated deadline. This also included changing his TikTok account handle, resulting in the Correction Notices becoming inaccessible to viewers.

5. After careful consideration of the facts and circumstances of the case, a 24-month conditional warning has been issued to the man for offences under Sections 7 and 15 of the POFMA. If he reoffends during this period, he could be prosecuted for the original

crime. An offence under section 7 of the POFMA carries a fine of up to \$50,000, an imprisonment term of up to 5 years, or both. An offence under section 15 of the POFMA carries a fine of up to \$20,000, an imprisonment term of up to one year, or both.

6. Statistics on POFMA cases are available on the POFMA website.

***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](http://www.pofmaoffice.gov.sg).*