

Written Representation 4

Name: Ler Han Qiang
Engineer

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Dear committee

As a member of public and a regular news reader, I suggest to reshape or remodel the jobs of past news agency staffs to take on this job of sieving out or authenticating the fake news.

The authentication can be through apps or software algorithms in the future. However, like defensive software such as anti-virus, the adoptive stage requires lots of manpower and human intervention. Therefore we must be aware and understand that to establish such system, the foundation and fundamental rules and setup is very important. And hence, do not be stingy in paying our people with expertise or vast experience in news handling and news delivery to work out this system.

News publishing has been in a decline over the years due to technological advancement. It appears to be a sunset industry. While the output have evolved, the gist of reliable news has now created this market with strong demand, especially in the fast pace market and economy our country is residing. Businesses can lose money with fake news. So can life be lost because of such falsification. For example, in future where cryptocurrency becomes a norm, stocks exchanges may never sleep anymore, so companies can go bankrupt within seconds when investors pull out instantly. Lives can also be lost if ambulances or police are directed to wrong destinations due to fake news. This will become very real in our not so distant future.

Building the framework and system requires knowledge, not solely in technology, but the know-how in news delivery process.

Not too long ago, there is a retrenchment exercise by one of our government backed news publishing agency. While there are government officials in the board, it is saddening and disappointing that there are no far-sighted board members or senior members who can raise the flag and start in this direction to reshape or recustomise work to keep up with times and generate new jobs and retain talent and knowledgeable individuals.

I hope the committee can look into the retrenched individuals profile or portfolio and redeploy them to contribute to develop the news authentication framework and system. The experience gained over the years are invaluable and hard to come by.

Please also take a holistic approach and not just focus on technology enabled people and aspect. While conventional wisdom may not be very applicable in this tech-enabled era, we must not overlook the conventional news media means that

may also become a threat due to fake news. This requires the older skilled and experienced people to contribute .

Fake news consequences must also not be neglected. Stopping the source is one measure. But there never are foolproof plans. Therefore, we must have the means to categorise news to prioritise life threatening news. This requires keywords and again, people with news and media related experience to contribute inputs to the system to create a robust intelligent system when we rely on smart technologies.

I hope the above few suggestions can give the committee some insights to consider.

Let's make our country a safer and reliable environment. I believe this new needs, when developed as a reputation and capability, will attract foreign investors and businesses to Singapore and create a stronger and ever growing economy.

Thank you.

Han Qiang