


Written Representation 8

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Background: 'Fake News' Green Paper

<p>POLITICS THE STRAITS TIMES</p> <h4>Select Committee to examine fake news threat in Singapore</h4> <p>Jan 11, 2018</p>  <p><small>Law and Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam said Singapore is susceptible to disinformation campaigns trying to interfere with democratic processes, destabilise societies and undermine institutions. PHOTO: YOUTUBE/GOV/SG</small></p>	<p>MINISTRY OF LAW SINGAPORE</p> <p>PRESS RELEASE</p> <h4>SELECT COMMITTEE ON DELIBERATE ONLINE FALSEHOODS: CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES AND COUNTERMEASURES</h4> <p>1 The Government will be asking Parliament to appoint a Select Committee to study the problem of deliberate online falsehoods and to recommend how Singapore should respond.</p> <p>2 The Ministry of Communications and Information and the Ministry of Law today issued a Green Paper titled "Deliberate Online Falsehoods: Challenges and Implications", setting out the reasons for appointing the Select Committee.</p> <p>3 A motion will be moved at the sitting of Parliament on 10 January 2018 to appoint the Select Committee. Notice of the Motion was given today.</p> <p>MINISTRY OF LAW 5 JANUARY 2018</p> <p><i>Annexe A: Green Paper</i> <i>Annexe B: Factsheet on Select Committee</i> <i>Annexe C: Infographic on Deliberate Online Falsehoods</i> <i>Annexe D: Infographic on the Select Committee Process</i></p>
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In Response to 'Fake News' Green Paper Combating online falsehoods: Two Proposed Measures



<p>DELIBERATE ONLINE FALSEHOODS: CHALLENGES AND IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>A Green Paper by the Ministry of Communications and Information and the Ministry of Law</p> <p>Misc. 10 of 2018</p> <p>Presented to Parliament by the Minister for Law</p> <p>Ordered by Parliament to lie upon the Table: 5 January 2018</p>	<p>84. The Government therefore intends to ask Parliament to appoint a Select Committee to examine and report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) The phenomenon of using digital technology to deliberately spread falsehoods online;(b) The motivations and reasons for the spreading of such falsehoods, and the types of individuals and entities, both local and foreign, which engage in such activity;(c) The consequences that the spread of online falsehoods can have on Singapore society, including to our institutions and democratic processes; and(d) How Singapore can prevent and combat online falsehoods, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. The principles that should guide Singapore's response; andii. Any specific measures, including legislation, that should be taken. <p>85. The public will be invited to make submissions to the Select Committee on these issues, once Parliament approves the formation of the Select Committee. The Select Committee can also hold public hearings, to engage in-depth with witnesses on key issues.</p>
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Re: Green Paper, Combating online falsehoods

Proposed Measure 1

- The European Patent Office has observed that: ***“Patents reveal solutions to technical problems, and they represent an inexhaustible source of information: more than 80 percent of man’s technical knowledge is described in patent literature.”***
- Globally, there are over **100 million published patented inventions** covering numerous technological domains.
- **Proposed Measure 1 (PM1)** is for the committee **to conduct a literature review on published inventions** that identify and manage various online fake news.



This are some examples of relevant patented inventions that combats online 'fake news':

1. US2017/0177717: ***“Rating A Level Of Journalistic Distortion In News Media Content”***
2. US2017/0195125: ***“Promoting Learned Discourse In Online Media With Consideration Of Sources And Provenance”***
3. US2017/0262697: ***“Event Detection, Confirmation And Publication System That Integrates Sensor Data And Social Media”***
4. US2010/0088314: ***“Method And System For Searching On Internet”***
5. WO2017/187401: ***“System, Device, And Method For Contextual Knowledge Retrieval And Display”***
6. US2016/0277485: ***“Socially Driven Feed Of Aggregated Content In Substantially Real Time”***

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Proposed Measure 2

- The **key advantage** for PM1 is to leverage on the published and novel solutions that were created by inventors around the world in the combating of online 'fake news'
- One **disadvantage** for PM1 is that whichever solution(s) that the government choose adopt may incur paying a licensing fee to the owner of the patents.
- An example of a Singapore patent that is owned by the Government is SG49804: ***“Parsing and translating natural language sentences automatically”***
- **Proposed Measure 2 (PM2)** is for the government to collaborate with Xinoa, a US company (which has an office in Singapore at Gateway, Beach Road) and tap access Xinoa thousands of global skilled inventors to:
 1. **Create new solutions and inventions** to combat online 'fake news'
 2. **Own** the IP (solutions and inventions)
- PM2 is also in-line at least 3 strategies outlined in the report (2017) by the **Committee on the Future Economy**:
 - Strategy 2: Acquire and utilise **deep skills**
 - Strategy 3: **Strengthen enterprise capabilities to innovate** and scale up
 - Strategy 4: Build **strong digital capabilities**

