

Embargoed until after delivery
Please check against delivery

SELECT COMMITTEE ON DELIBERATE ONLINE FALSEHOODS
OPENING REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN CHARLES CHONG, DEPUTY
SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT
14 MARCH 2018, 11 A.M.

Good morning.

1. Welcome to the first day of public hearings by the Select Committee on Deliberate Online Falsehoods – Causes, Consequences and Countermeasures.
2. We have completed a 7-week public consultation, including a one-week extension. We received a total of 164 representations.
3. To date, we have invited 79 individuals and organisations to give oral evidence. They represent a cross section of the representations we received; in some cases, there were representations which required further clarification. We may revise the witness list as the hearings progress.
4. I should also add that the Committee's decisions on the process so far have been unanimous and consensual. This reflects our common intention to engage widely on our terms of reference.
5. Deliberate online falsehoods is a serious global problem, which many countries, including Singapore, have to grapple with. It is a complex problem, affecting us in many different ways. Over the next three days, we will hear from witnesses who can help us understand different aspects of the problem, from media to technology, racial and religious relations and national security. Some of the witnesses are experts from overseas. They can share with us what has happened, and what is being done, in other countries, so that we can draw relevant lessons for ourselves.
6. We look forward to a constructive and engaging session.
7. With that, can we call our first witness of the day.