

## Written Representation 6

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Title: Public view on fake news

Dear sir/madam,

While I admit that there is intended mischief in agencies creating fake news, accompanied with the potential harm that it can create, sometime is all about the level of trust that exists between government and its citizenry.

I will not be mistaken if I say that in Singapore there are concerns among the people about the transparency of government moves, eg the manner in which individuals are picked for key government roles, ex-scholars and Ministers channeled into key positions in the private sector, and even how families are feature in a single sector, eg previously the presence of Lee family members in Finance ministry, Temasek, & GIC altogether. People of Singapore feel there is little evidence of checks and balances in the governing of Singaporeans it's agencies; a case in hand is the retention of current SMRT CEO despite the fiascos discovered after 5 years of being at the helm. At least in USA we can tune in into select congressional hearings when a person is appointed into a key government or quasi-government position, and people can judge for themselves if selected people are good; or even hearings when things go wrong. People cannot help but feel that there is too much secrecy within government corridors about going ons.

Additionally people of Singapore lack sufficient information and up-to-date information with which the government makes polices, eg increasing population against our low TFRs and yet not preparing in advance the infrastructure, understanding Low TFR impact to Singapore in critical areas like defence, education infrastructure, health services, economy, taxes etc. If Singaporeans are kept abreast with key information that shape national policy and programs, there will be lesser need for conspiracy theories and fake news when new policies and programs are rolled out, or existing ones fail.

So it's all about building trust between government and people. To tell people that your track record is good, and so Singaporeans have to trust the government in having our backs is simply not good enough today. Citizens want to get involved in policy formulation. And the more you get them in, and the more open the government is with her information, the lesser the need for fake news.

No amount of laws and regulations is going to curb fake news, until trust between people and government is sealed.

With respect,  
COL (Ret) K. Kuharajahsingam