



The Select Committee, led by chairman Charles Chong, at the press conference yesterday.

The fight against deliberate online falsehoods

In its report yesterday, the Select Committee on fake news proposed recommendations to address these five aims:

1. Nurture an informed public

- A national framework to ensure long-term public education on the fake news threat, reaching out to all segments of society.
- Accurate journalism, by both mainstream and alternate media, ensures that society has trusted information sources.

2. Reinforce social cohesion and trust

- Strengthening trust in society and public institutions can bridge fault lines and make it difficult for falsehoods to take effect.
- Organisations and public institutions should provide clarifications and information in a timely manner.

3. Promote fact-checking

- Credible fact-checking initiatives can debunk falsehoods in a speedy fashion, allow people to access reliable facts and create an ecosystem where accuracy is valued.

4. Disrupt online falsehoods

- Legislation aimed at countering and deterring the spread of online falsehoods is necessary to limit their impact. Such measures should be carefully balanced and calibrated, while additional ones may be needed to safeguard elections.

- To address the sources of fake news, a demonetisation regime and criminal sanctions against culprits should be in place.
- Tech and social media companies should take steps to fight fake news, and be held accountable through government legislation and regulation.

5. Deal with threats to national security and sovereignty

- State-sponsored disinformation operations must be effectively dealt with, and the Government must come up with a national strategy against such threats.

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