

# THE CYBER ALERT

THE NEWSLETTER BY CCHY CYBER WELLNESS

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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WHAT IS FAKE  
NEWS?

CAN YOU IDENTIFY  
FAKE NEWS?

HOW TO FIGHT  
AGAINST FAKE  
NEWS?

FEATURED STORY



## Are You Ready?

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Cyber Alert is a newsletter designed to communicate and disseminate issues on cyber wellness for both adults and students. We want it to be entertaining and informative, at times reflective but above all useful.

You can take control if you take steps to protect and guard yourselves.

Enjoy reading!

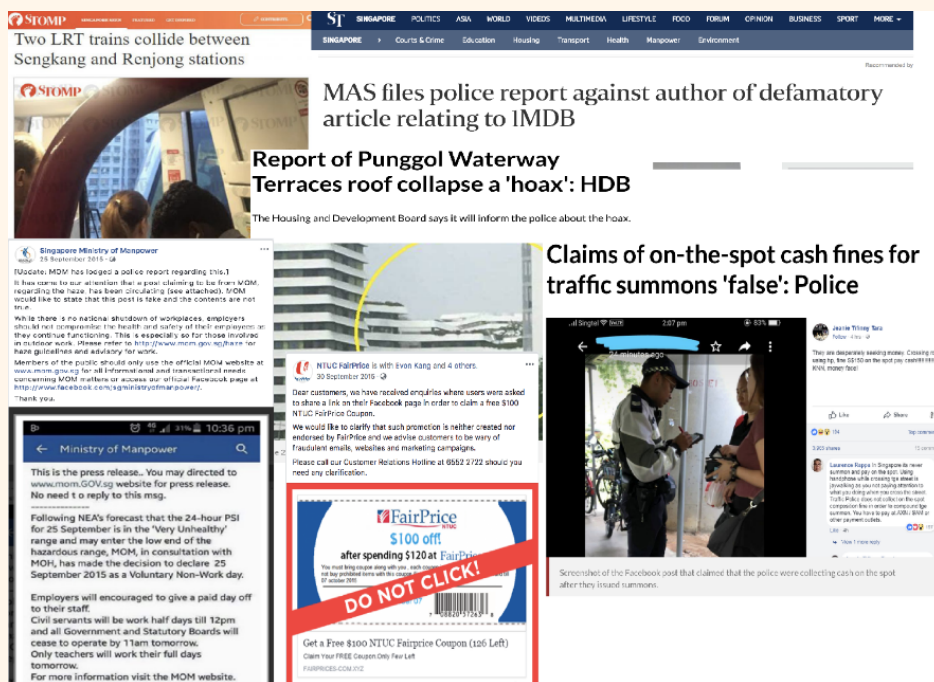
# What is Fake News?

Lots of things you read online especially in your social media feeds may appear to be true, often is not. Fake news is news, stories or hoaxes created to **deliberately** misinform or **deceive** readers.

Usually, these stories are created to either influence people's views, push a political agenda or cause confusion and can often be a profitable business for online publishers.

Extracted from Explained: What is Fake News from Webwise.ie

Singapore hasn't been spared from fake news. These are some examples from recent years.



## HOW TO IDENTIFY FAKE NEWS?

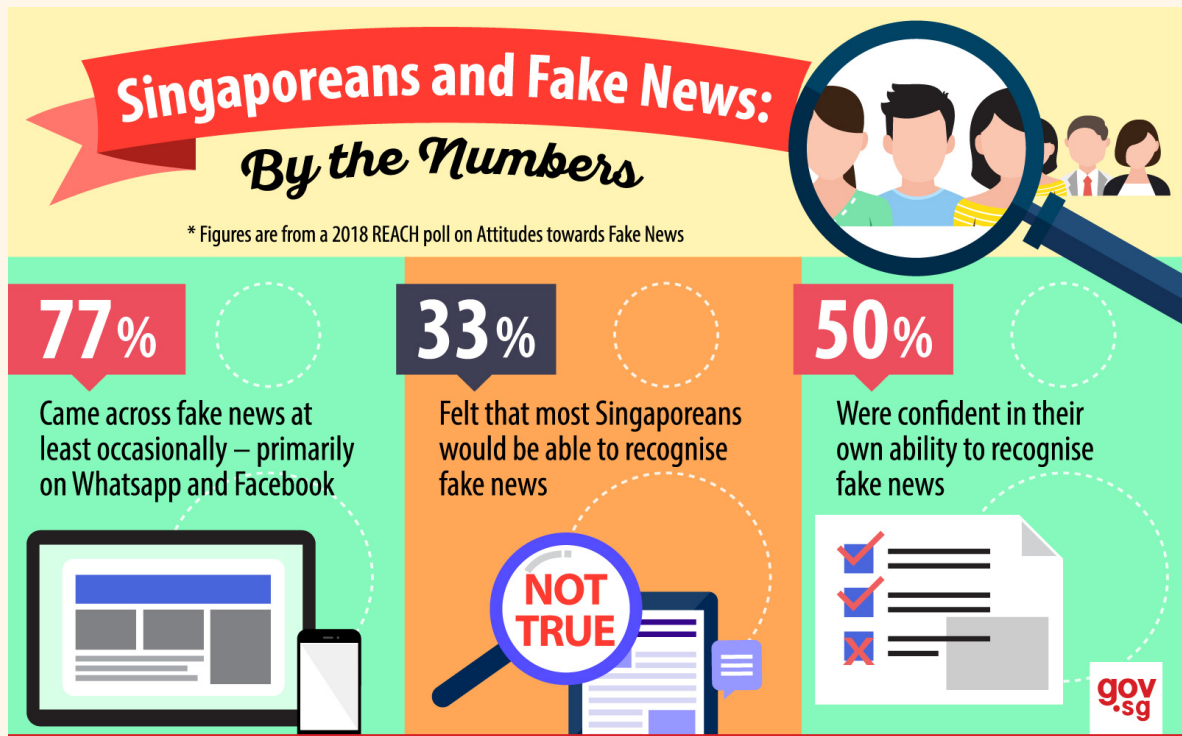
Fake news is often difficult to spot. They are often made to look like legitimate news sites, and they often include real news elements.

But there are ways to discern the real from the fake. Here are some giveaway signs of fake news.

- Unreliable source
- Reputable sites i.e Straits Time aren't carrying the story
- The story's too good to be true
- It triggers strong emotions

Extracted from <https://www.gov.sg/news/content/singapore-fight-against-fake-news>

# HOW TO FIGHT AGAINST FAKE NEWS?



Here's how you can contribute to the fight.

Before you share a piece of news, think about whether what you are sharing is credible using the **S.U.R.E** framework.

## SOURCE

Where did the content originate from? How credible is the publisher?

## UNDERSTAND

Search for clarity in what you're reading. Does the article make sense? Does it trigger strong emotions? Do offers sound too good to be true?

## RESEARCH

Go beyond the initial source. Has it been published elsewhere before? Check the publish date. When was the photo taken? Real information can often be taken out of context.

## EVALUATE

Look at the story from various angles. Was it meant to be a joke? Check your own biases and emotions. Are they affecting your judgement? Think before you share!

More details at [www.nlb.gov.sg/sure/](http://www.nlb.gov.sg/sure/)

**"It's up to you if you want to believe me or not, but I talked with my relative and apparently Ambon is going to sink in the next few days," said one message circulated on WhatsApp.**

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## FAKE NEWS SPARKS FEAR AMONG INDONESIA QUAKE VICTIMS

AFP, 08 OCT 2019

JAKARTA - Thousands of Indonesians are still in shelters nearly two weeks after a deadly earthquake sparked a stream of fake news and hoaxes warning that an even bigger disaster was looming, the government said on Monday (Oct 7).

The local government has declared a state of emergency until Wednesday, with nearly 135,000 people in evacuation shelters and tents.

Many displaced people are too scared to return to their homes in the remote Maluku islands after the area suffered more than 1,000 aftershocks following a 6.5-magnitude quake on Sept 26 that killed dozens and damaged scores of homes and other buildings, the agency said.

Terrified residents ran into the streets following the quake, which sparked landslides that buried at least one of the victims. The strong jolt killed 37 people, including several young children, and injured dozens of others.

More than 6,000 houses were damaged, according to official figures. Fears about aftershocks have been aggravated by a stream of hoaxes and fake news - mostly on WhatsApp and other messaging services - that warned a tsunami-generating quake was about to strike.

"It's up to you if you want to believe me or not, but I talked with my relative and apparently Ambon is going to sink in the next few days," said one message circulated on WhatsApp.



**"Many people also thought they're not allowed to go back during the state of emergency, which is actually false," he added.**

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National disaster mitigation agency spokesman Agus Wibowo said the fake news was making a bad situation worse. "There are so many hoaxes about a bigger earthquake and tsunami," he told AFP. "People are scared and so they chose to stay in shelters," Dr Agus added. Even some whose houses were not damaged in the quake have refused to go home despite efforts to convince them it was safe, he said.

"Many people also thought they're not allowed to go back during the state of emergency, which is actually false," he added.

The South-east Asian nation is one of the most disaster-prone nations on earth. It experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where tectonic plates collide.

Last year, a 7.5-magnitude quake and a subsequent tsunami in Palu on Sulawesi island left more than 4,300 people dead or missing.

In 2004, a devastating 9.1-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Sumatra and triggered a tsunami that killed 220,000 throughout the region, including around 170,000 in Indonesia.