

SAFEGUARDING YOURSELF FROM SCAMS & MINSINFORMATION

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NLB | National Library Board
Singapore



WHAT IS FAKE NEWS?

Fake news is designed with the intention to mislead readers and viewers into believing wrong information.

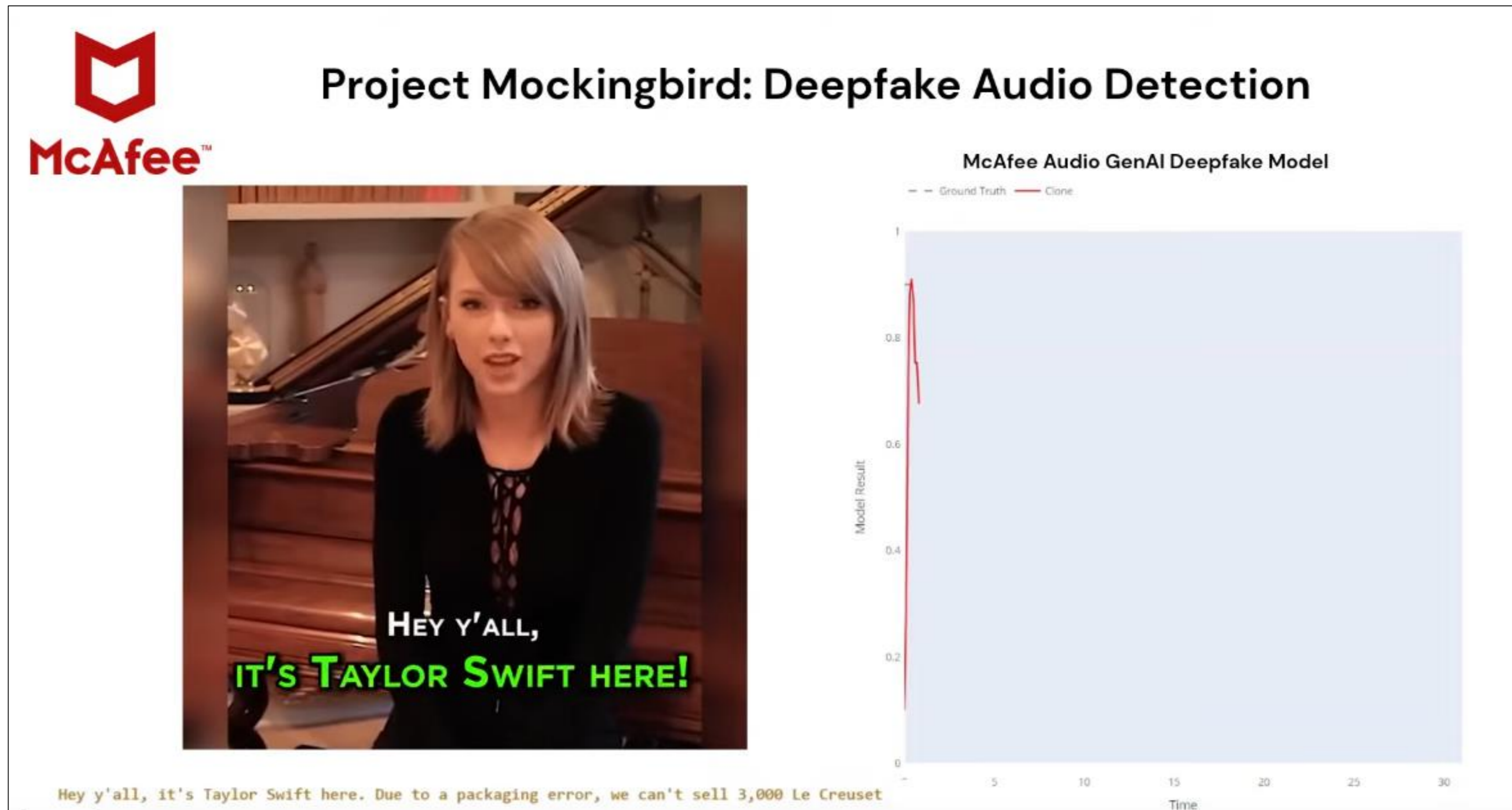
CHARACTERISTICS OF FAKE NEWS



- 1) Deliberately created to mislead readers into believing falsehoods
- 2) Spread through social media and messaging apps
- 3) Able to stir emotions (e.g. fear, anger, excitement) in readers

DEEPPAKES ARE USED IN BOTH FAKE NEWS AND SCAMS

Deepfakes of public figures (celebrities, politicians etc.) have become more prevalent. Their voices and movements are altered, misleading viewers into falling for such scams.

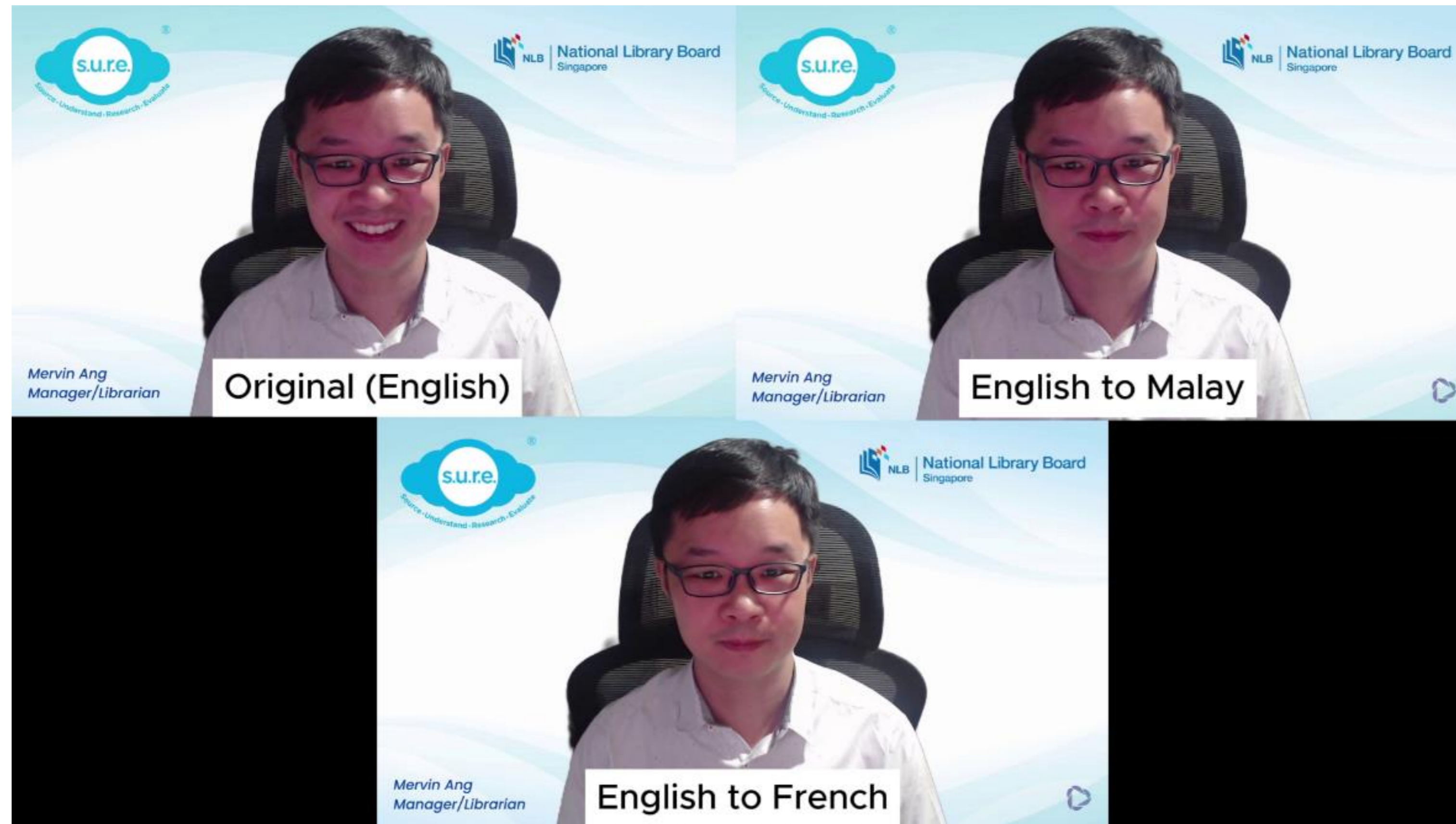


Deepfakes of Taylor Swift giving away Le Creuset cookware to fans for free.

(Source: [McAfee](#), 2024)

TECHNOLOGY LIKE DEEPPFAKES ARE USED IN CREATING FAKE NEWS

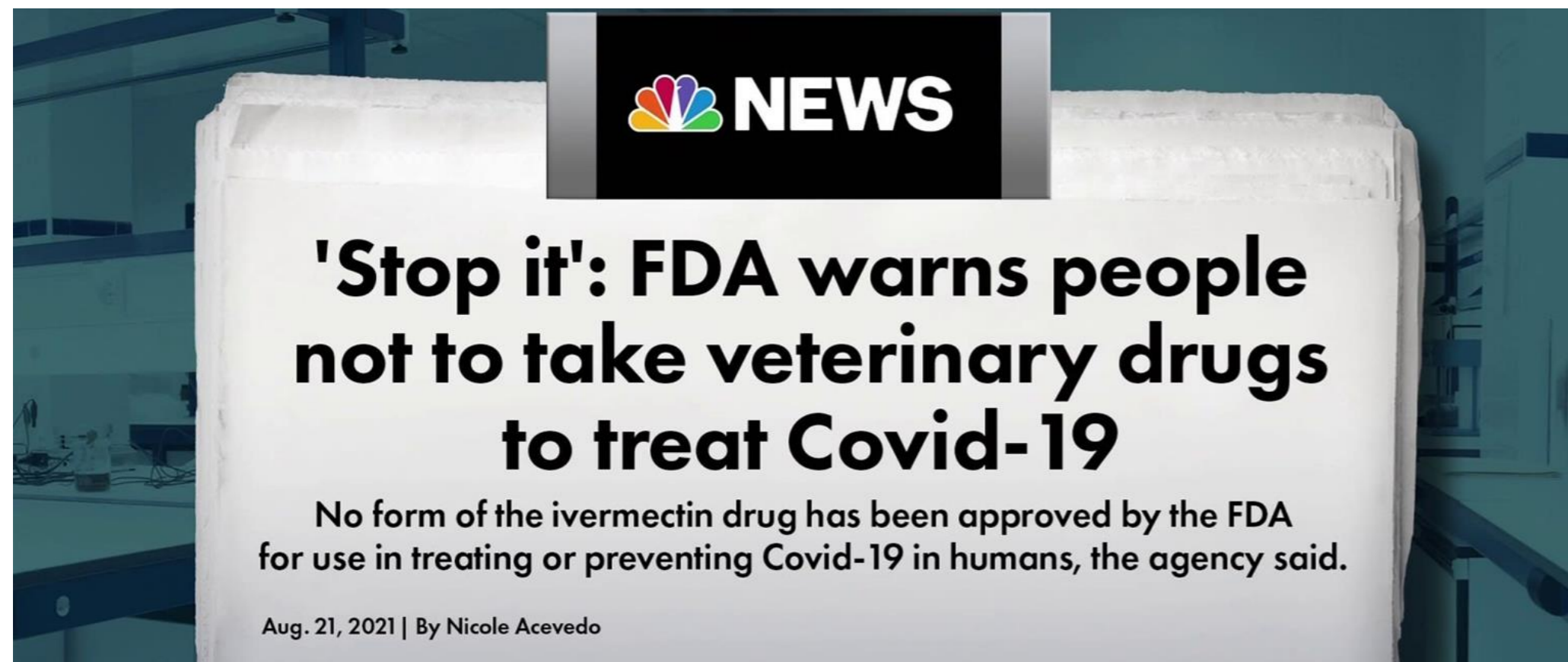
Today, anyone can create a realistic 'deepfake' of yourself and others from various A.I. platforms. While this technology can be used for innocent and positive purposes (e.g. translation), it can also be harnessed to generate misinformation.



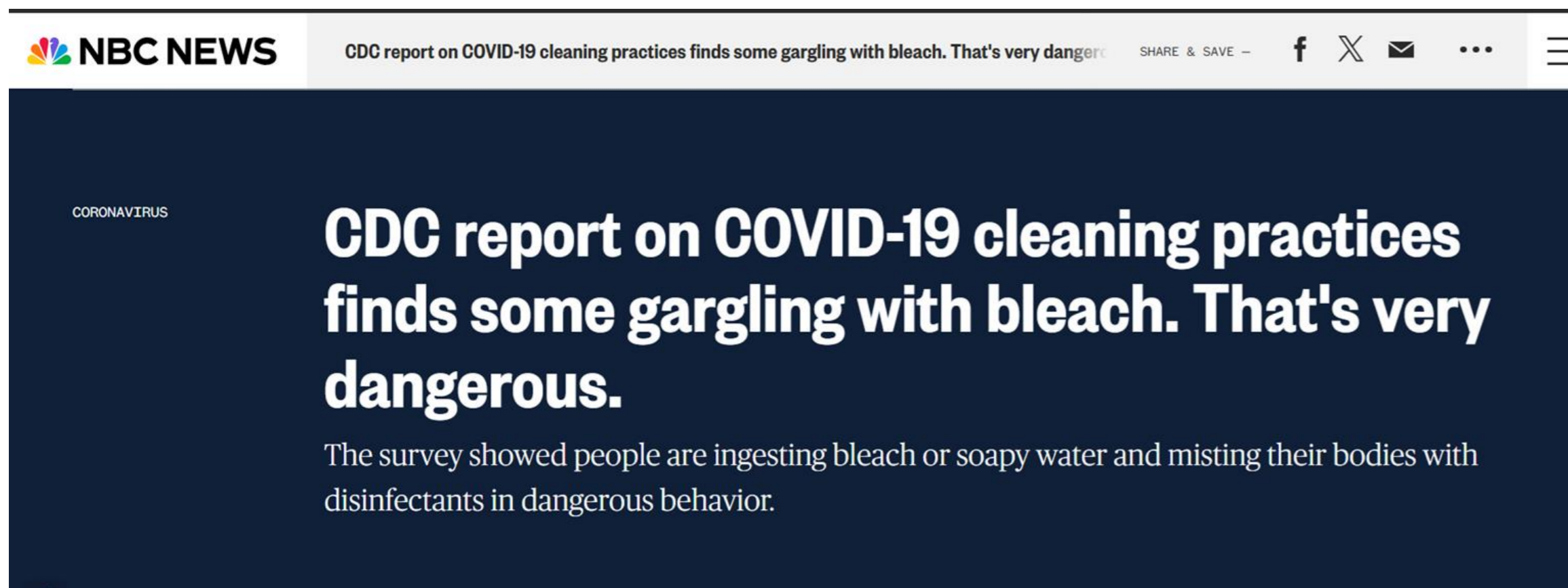
View video [here](#) (Creator: Mervin Ang from NLB, 2024)

IMPACT OF FAKE NEWS

1) Fake news can **create panic and fear**



- Misinformation amidst the COVID-19 pandemic caused much panic and fear amongst people desperate to protect themselves and their loved ones.



- Fake news that drinking cleaning products can cure one of the virus led to over 800 deaths and 5000 hospitalisations worldwide

Fake news articles about Covid-19 “remedies” with potentially dangerous effects.

(Source 1: [CNBC](#), 2022)

(Source 2: [NBC news](#), 2020)

2) Fake news can **damage racial and religious harmony**

<  Crow ThaQuya Ashhara
Make Them Famous
5 hrs · 🌐

Anak2 Yg Ke Sekolah Madrasah, Jgn Pulak Korang Bawak BOMB Ge Sekolah.. Nanti Ustadz-Ustadz Baru Nak Start Tangkapz..

#MavaFangkuloKastro



Posts on social media circulated false allegations that police officers in Singapore were targeting Muslim students in security checks because of racial profiling.

Translation:
"Children who go to religious school, please don't bring bombs to school. Later the ustadz will catch you."

2) Fake news can **damage racial and religious harmony**

Singapore

Police reject 'irresponsible' allegations about checks on madrasah students



“Police reject ‘irresponsible allegations about checks on madrasah students’”
CNA, 16 Jul 2019

However, these posts irresponsibly took the situation out of context.

“The TransCom officers were engaging the two students in a new initiative, Riders-On-Watch (ROW) ... under this scheme, volunteers sign up to help keep a lookout for suspicious items or people, and to alert the police.”

2) Fake news can **damage racial and religious harmony**

WORLD • UNITED KINGDOM
How Online
Misinformation Stoked
Anti-Migrant Riots in
Britain
7 MINUTE READ



BY **ARMANI SYED/LONDON** X
AUGUST 5, 2024 12:00 PM EDT

Following the fatal mass stabbing, false claims circulated on social media that the attacker was a Muslim refugee who had arrived in the UK in 2023 by boat.

However, the attacker was neither Muslim nor a refugee. Instead, he was born and raised in the UK.

“How Online Misinformation Stoked Anti-Migrant Riots in Britain”
Time Magazine, August 5 2024

2) Fake news can **damage racial and religious harmony**



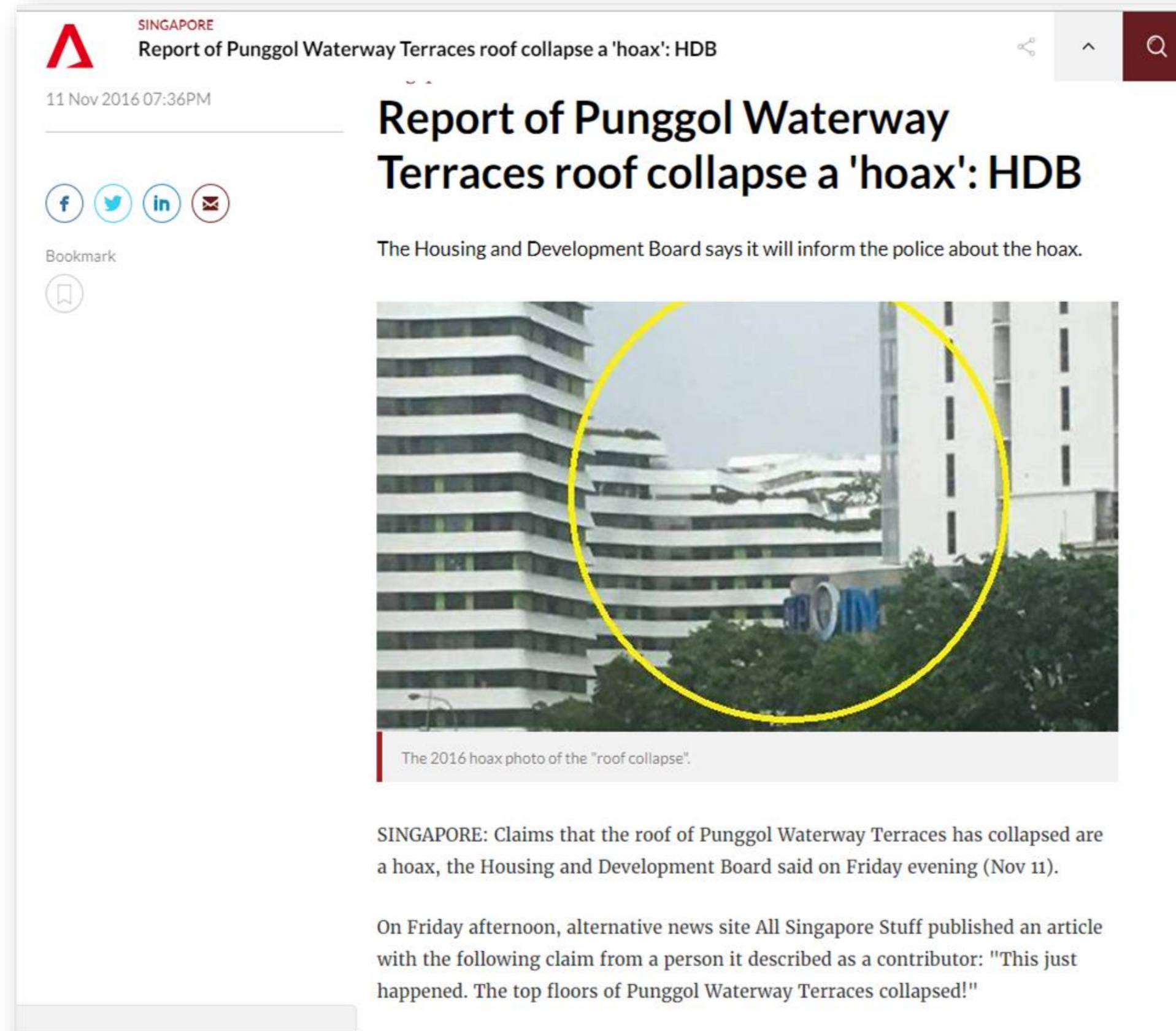
Violent riots in Southport fuelled by misinformation about the attacker's background and far-right anti-immigrant sentiments.

(Source: [Getty Images](#), 2024)

These false claims inflamed existing Islamophobic and anti-immigrant sentiments, resulting in violent protests around the UK.

Rioters even set fire to hotels housing asylum seekers.

3) Fake news can **waste precious time and resources**

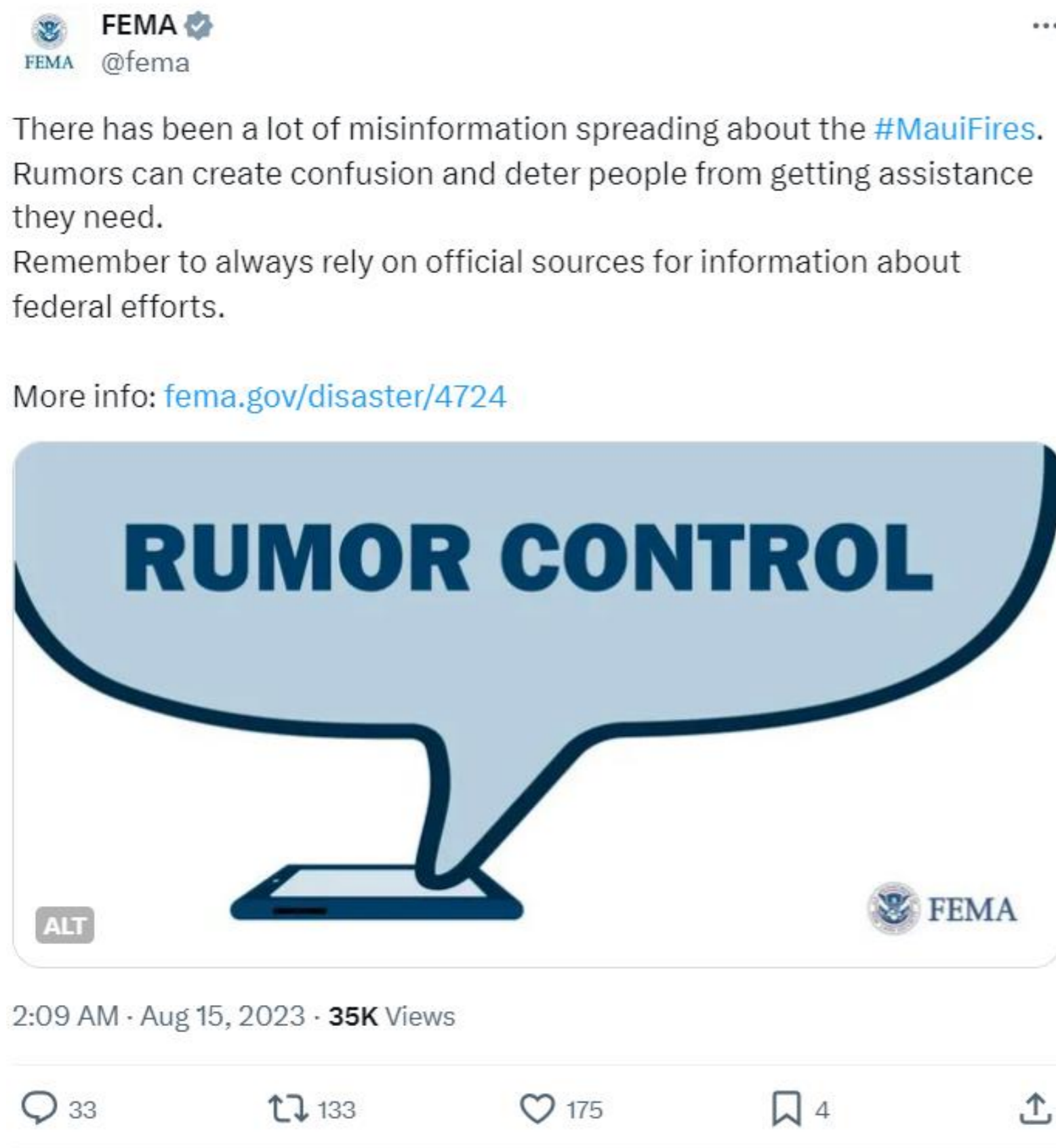


Police and civil defence officers were deployed to investigate and reassure residents that their flat was structurally sound, taking their attention and time away from genuine emergencies.

"Report of Punggol Waterway Terraces roof collapse a hoax:
HDB"

Channel NewsAsia, 11 Nov 2016

3) Fake news can **waste precious time and resources**



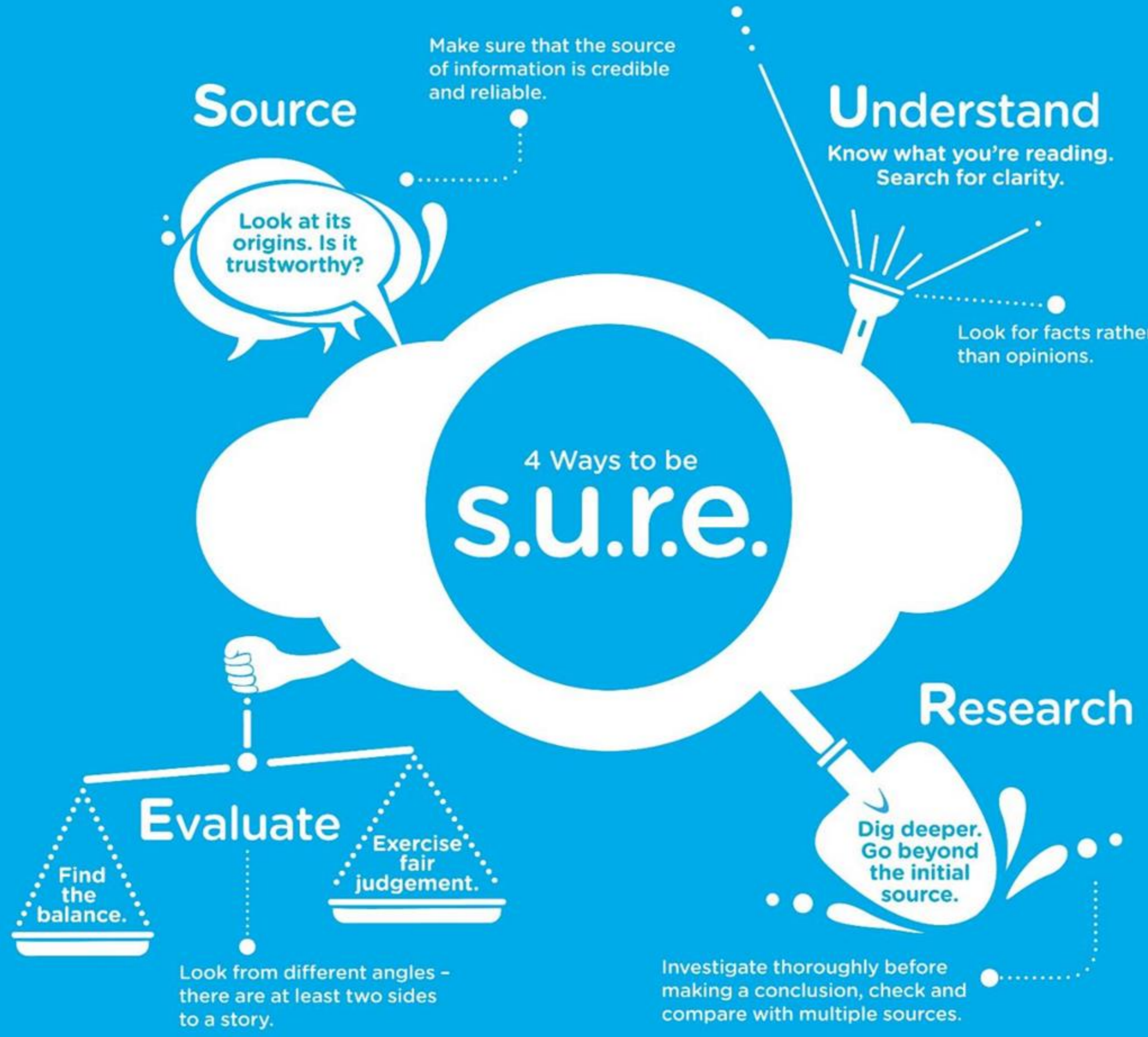
Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 2023 on X

Following severe natural disasters in the US, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) establishes **rumour control websites** to debunk fake news.

Following the deadly Maui wildfires in 2023, misinformation spread widely about FEMA **seizing land and private property** from residents who seek disaster assistance. Such misinformation dissuades victims from accessing critical disaster aid.

THE S.U.R.E. STEPS

4 ways to be S.U.R.E.



VIDEO: BE S.U.R.E. BEFORE YOU SHARE



View video [here](#) (NLB, 2023)

CASE STUDY: GARGLING SALT WATER STOPS COVID?

Source

- Even though the message cites “Zhong Nanshan”, it does not provide links to any source.

Understand

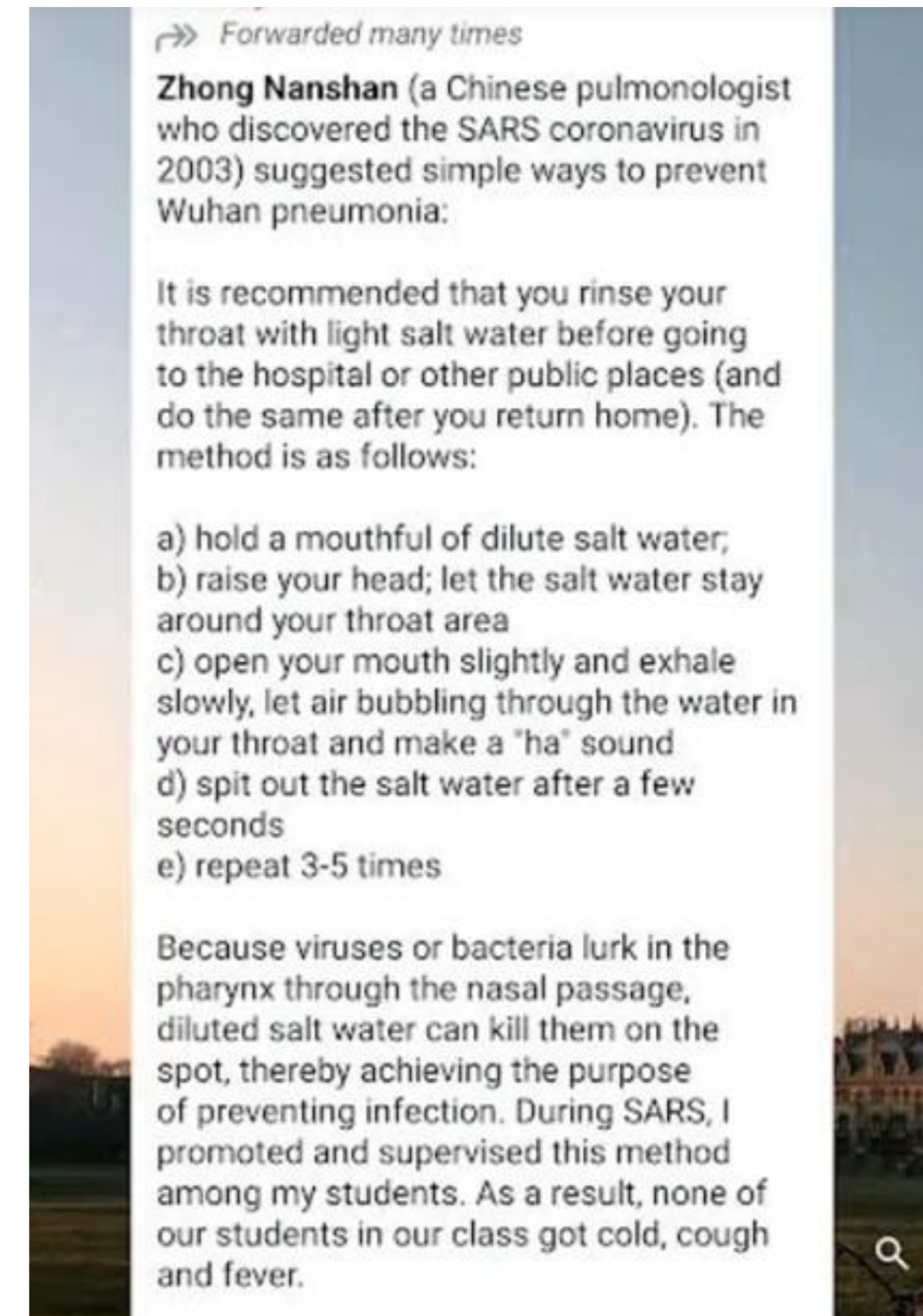
- There are no factual explanations in the message as to why gargling salt water would kill viruses or bacteria.

Research

- A quick online search of ‘gargling salt water for Covid’ shows that this myth has been debunked by governments and scientific bodies worldwide, including Zhong Nanshan himself.

Evaluate

- The poor sentence structure of “let air bubbling through the water in your throat and make a ‘ha’ sound” and “Wuhan pneumonia” should sound alarms about its lack of credibility.



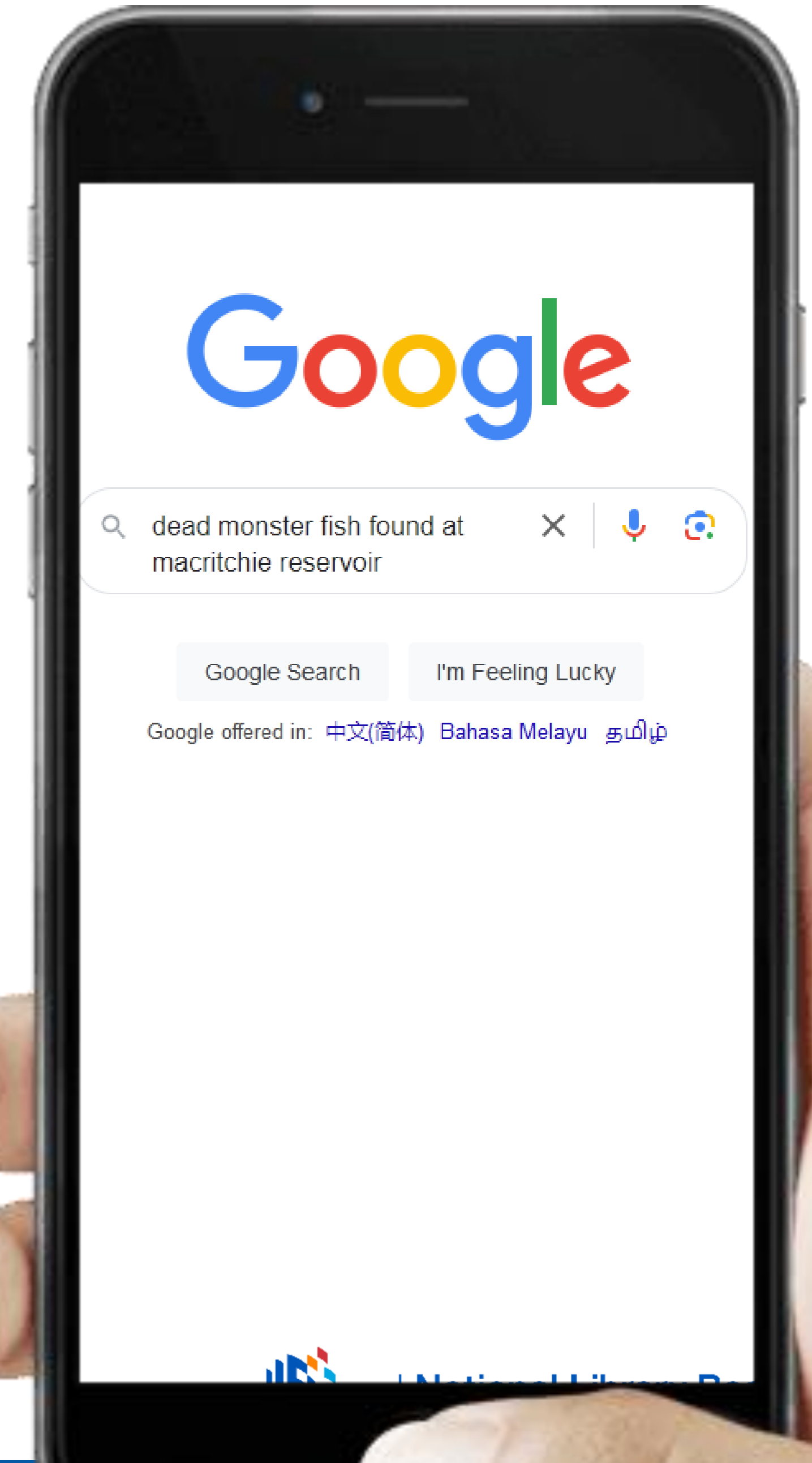
DEBUNKED

FACT-CHECKING METHODS AND PLATFORMS

FACT-CHECK ACTIVITY

Do a quick Google search of the headline you see:

Dead monster fish found at
MacRitchie Reservoir!!

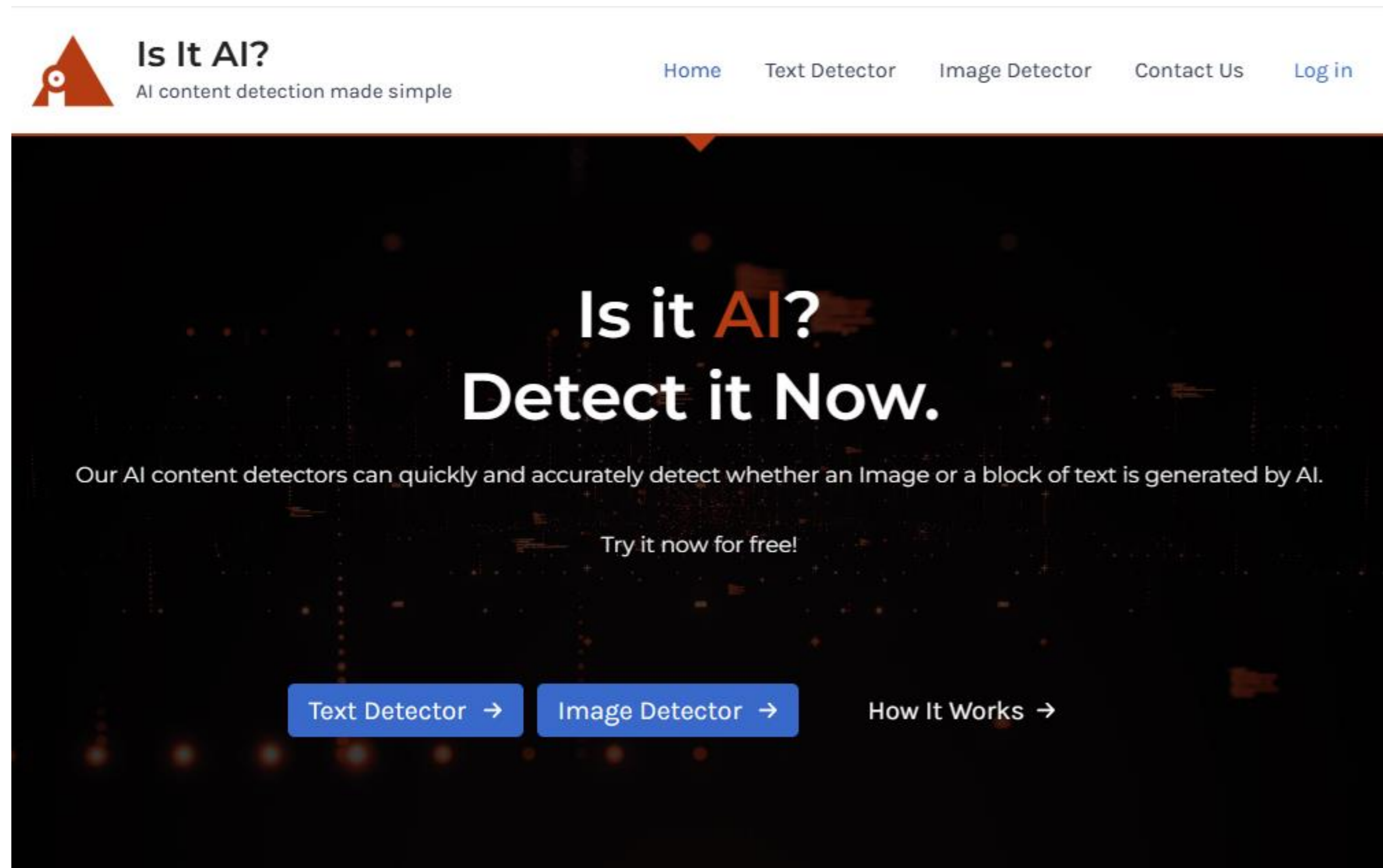


FACT-CHECK ACTIVITY

The screenshot shows search results for 'monstrous fish'. Three results are circled in green. The first result is from The Straits Times, dated 17 Feb 2021, with the headline "'Monstrous' fish at MacRitchie identified as non-native ...". The second result is from Mothership, dated 15 Feb 2021, with the headline "'Monstrous' remains found on banks of MacRitchie ...". The third result is from The New Paper, dated 23 Feb 2021, with the headline "'Monster' fish can grow to monstrous sizes". Below these are two more results: one from Daily Mail Online dated 19 Feb 2021 with the headline "Bizarre gator-like fish with huge jaws spotted in Singapore". The search interface also includes a 'People also ask' section with questions like 'Does MacRitchie have crocodiles?' and 'Is there an alligator gar in Australia?'. A 'Feedback' link is visible at the bottom right of the search results area.

- As the top results show recognised Singapore news and media sites reporting on the incident as **real**, we can conclude that the news is indeed authentic!

USE A.I. DETECTION TOOLS FOR IMAGES



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Is It AI?' website. At the top left is the logo, a red triangle with a white circle and a dot, followed by the text 'Is It AI?' and the tagline 'AI content detection made simple'. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with links for 'Home', 'Text Detector', 'Image Detector', 'Contact Us', and 'Log in'. The main content area has a dark background with the text 'Is it AI? Detect it Now.' in large white font. Below this is a smaller line of text: 'Our AI content detectors can quickly and accurately detect whether an Image or a block of text is generated by AI.' Underneath that is the phrase 'Try it now for free!'. At the bottom of the main area are three blue buttons with white text: 'Text Detector →', 'Image Detector →', and 'How It Works →'.

isitai.com

A.I. DETECTION ACTIVITY

Analyze Another Image

AI 98.10%

Human 1.90%

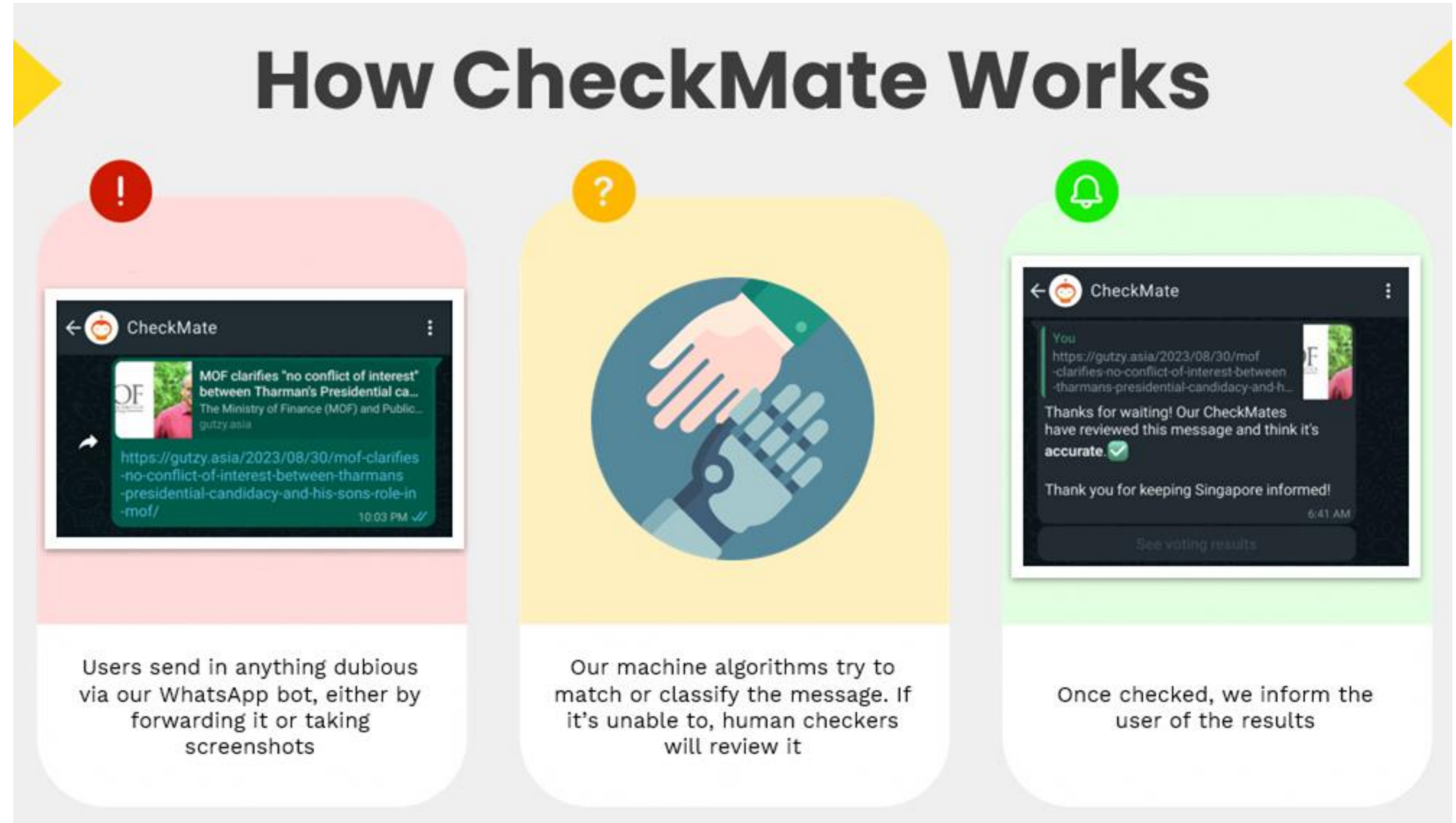
This image is highly likely to be AI generated

- The percentage will show how likely your uploaded image is made by AI or a human
- Note that it is not 100% accurate, and the score depends on the resolution of your image
- The clearer the image, the better the results

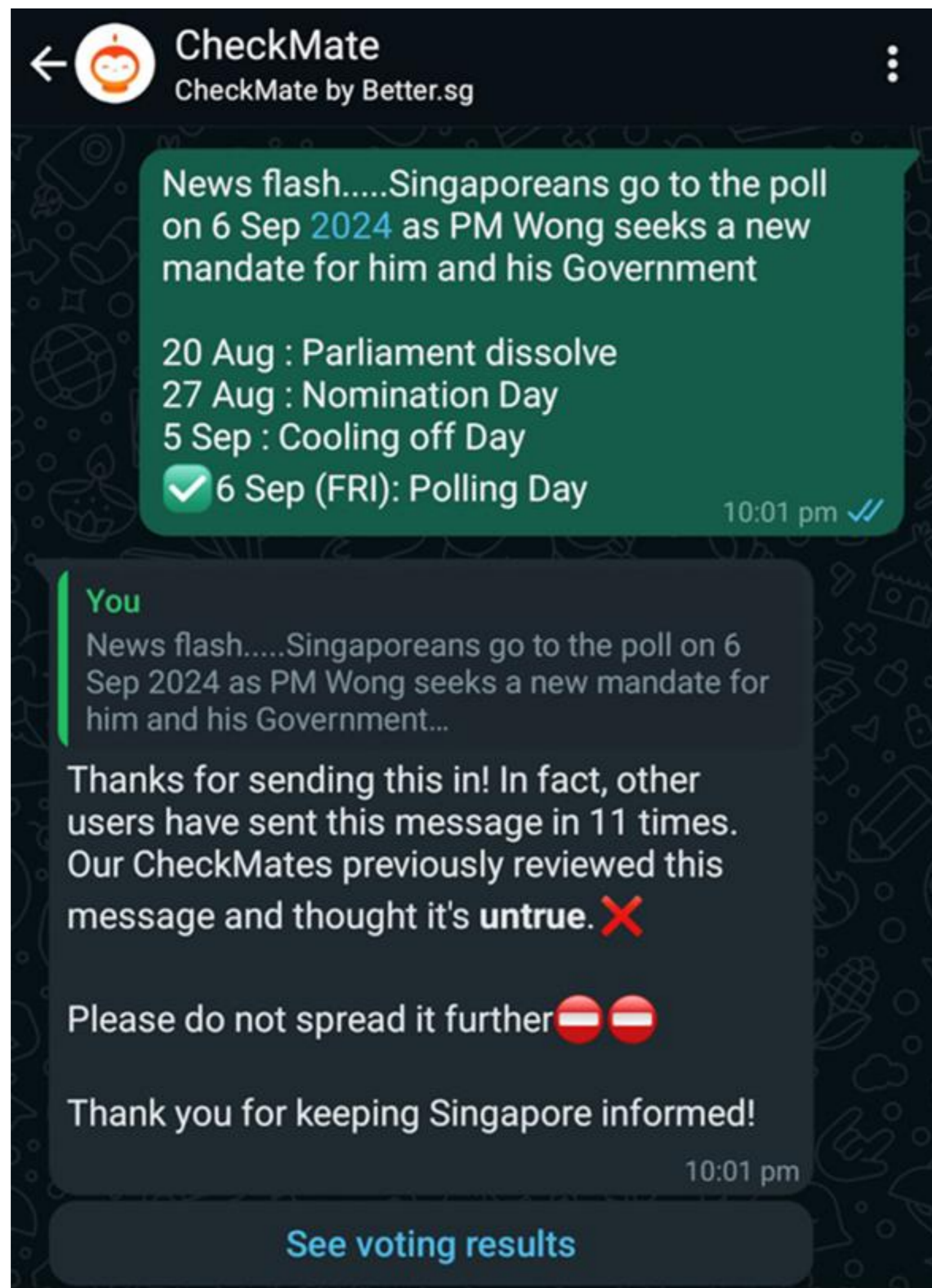
USE CHECKMATE CHATBOT TO VERIFY NEWS



<https://checkmate.sg/>

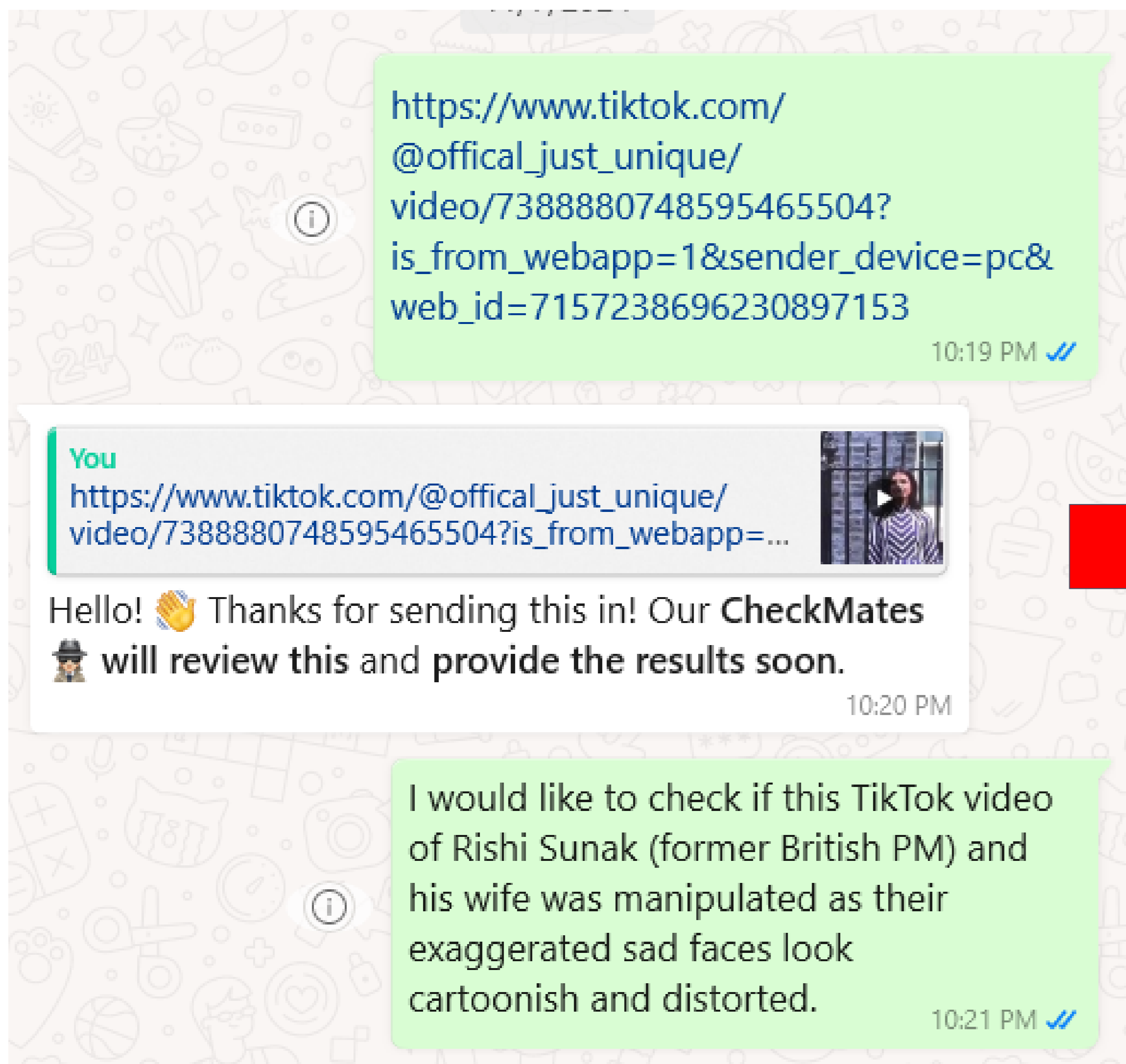


CHECKMATE.SG



- The CheckMate chatbot will inform you if the message is untrue, a scam, or misleading
- CheckMate will report scams to ScamShield on your behalf
- Messages will then be compiled into the CheckMate message database

CHECKMATE.SG



You

I would like to check if this TikTok video of Rishi Sunak (former British PM) and his wife was manipulated as thei...

Thanks for waiting!

33.3% of our CheckMates felt this was **trivial**, meaning the message didn't contain a meaningful claim to assess. 😞. 33.3% felt this was **misleading** ⚠️, with an average score of 3.2 on a scale of 1-5 (5 = completely true).

If you haven't done so, you could send in the message with more context, e.g. sending in a screenshot containing the sender's number.

Thank you for keeping Singapore safe!

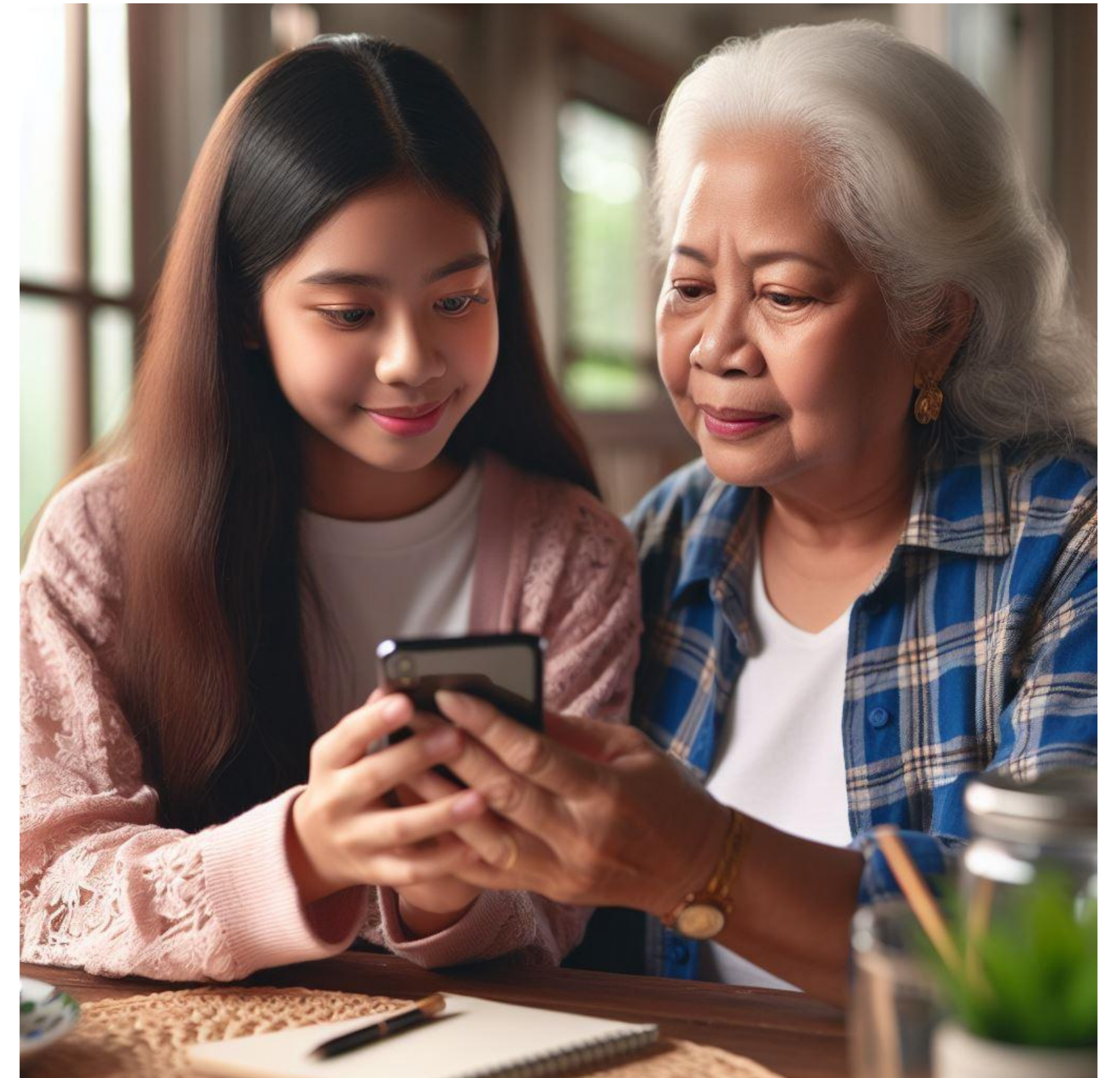
10:01 PM

BE HELPFUL AND POLITE WHEN TALKING TO FRIENDS & FAMILY ABOUT SHARING FAKE NEWS

Helpful phrases to get started:

- *“Oh, I saw this and initially thought it could be true, too. But...”*
- *“Hmm, this image/meme/article is kind of shocking, but I’m not sure if that it’s real ...”*
- *“This image looks like it may not actually be what it seems. Here is a link to another version of the image, which shows something different. What do you think?”*

* Adapted from *“How to speak up without starting a showdown”* by The News Literacy Project (2023)



Generated with AI for educational purposes
(May 2024)

RECAP

- Fake news can impact people and society negatively if left unchecked
- Use the S.U.R.E. steps and fact-checking methods to safeguard ourselves
- If you have family or friends who have shared fake news, explain nicely and politely so that they can learn as well

Be S.U.R.E. Before You Share!



Dive into the world of generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI) and deepfakes with us! Get ready to join us in being S.U.R.E. together and learn more about these new technologies, how to use it for good while ensuring safety and well-being for you and your loved ones.

Visit our roadshows!

Date	Time	Venue
24 Aug & 25 Aug	11 am to 8 pm	Our Tampines Hub
28 Sep & 29 Sep	10 am to 6 pm	Toa Payoh HDB Hub Atrium
19 Oct & 20 Oct	10 am to 6 pm	Keat Hong Community Club

Visit our roadshow for interactive activities and programmes on deepfakes and gen AI



JOIN OUR S.U.R.E. LEARNING COMMUNITY



- To build and nurture a learning community (LC) that is passionate about safeguarding the community from scams and misinformation
- Through partnership with CheckMate, members of the LC can learn to become more effective practitioners of information literacy by attending monthly sessions with various invited speakers

Website



go.gov.sg/nlb-surelc

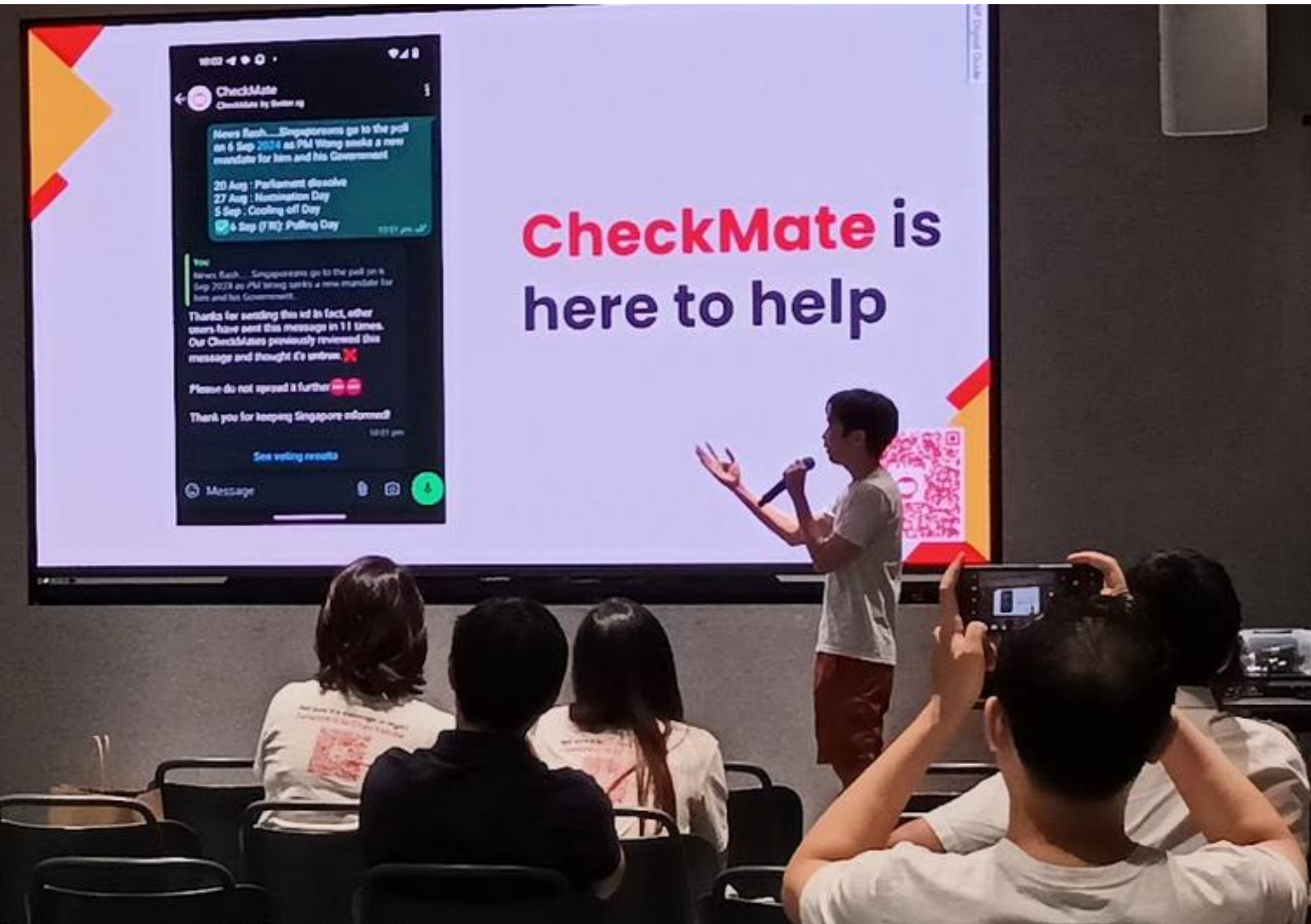
Register to join



go.gov.sg/join-surelc

S.U.R.E. LEARNING COMMUNITY

Empowering members to be digital champions



Regular programmes and sessions covering different themes related to misinformation and scams

Volunteering opportunities at NLB roadshows and public education events.



For more info, visit go.gov.sg/nlb-sure-2024

For enquires, email us at sure@nlb.gov.sg