



QUICKTAKE

Malaysia's Anti Fake News Act 2018

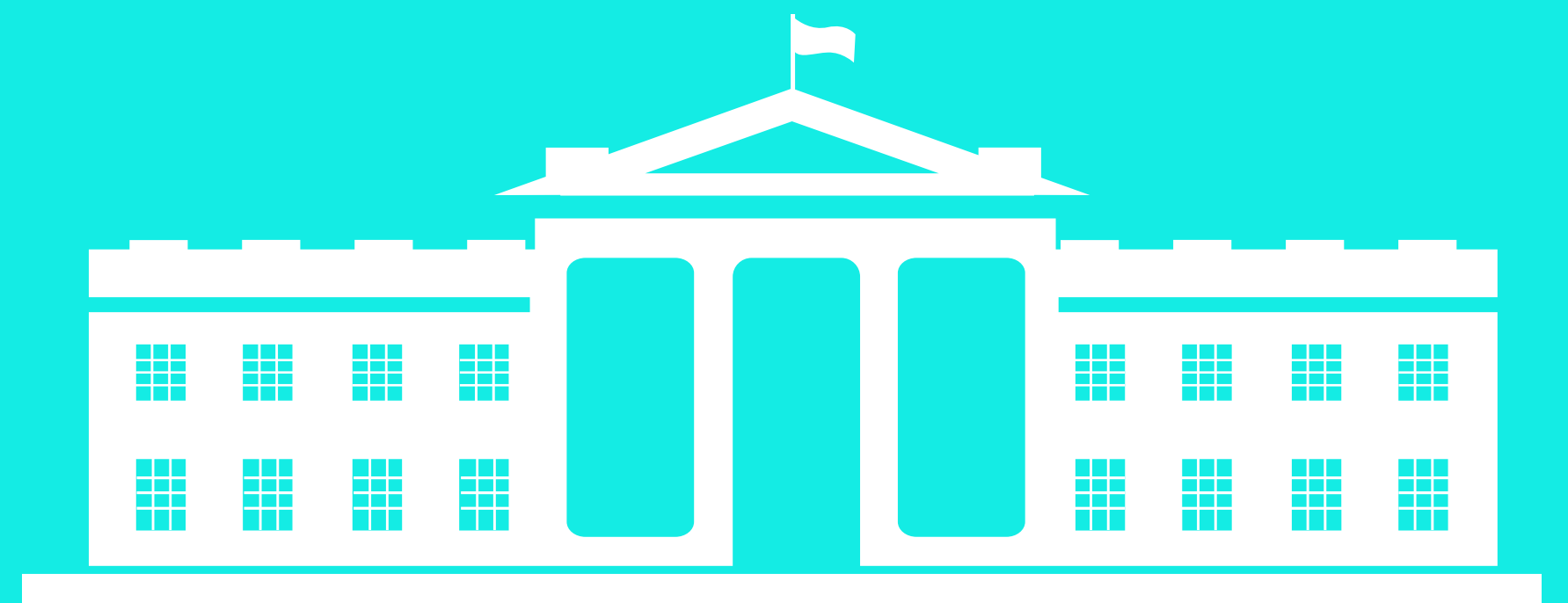
How to move forward?

The **Anti-Fake News Act (AFNA)** entered into effect in March 2018, just before the 14th General Elections in May 2018. Following Pakatan Harapan's electoral victory, the Parliament passed the bill to repeal the **AFNA** to fulfill its manifesto promise. However, the Senate rejected it in September 2018, preferring to amend than repeal the controversial legislation. The question is, **what now?**



Social media as a primary source of information has led to faster and deeper dissemination of 'fake news'

'Fake news' is a loose and highly political term used by the Trump administration to discredit journalists against his views



In Malaysia, reliance and trust on online information is high

89%

of Malaysians

Obtain news online
(including social media)

83%

of Malaysians

Trust information found online, regardless of the source

63%

of Malaysians

Unable to differentiate the truth from false information

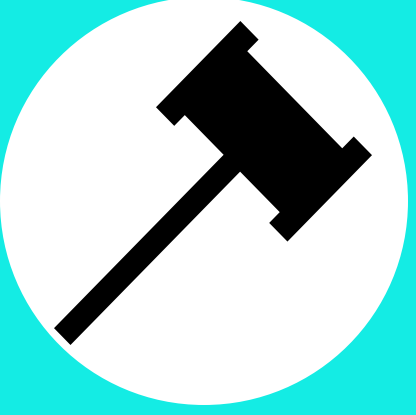
Primary concerns on the AFNA



1. Restricts freedom of speech and expressions



2. Exposed to uncertainty and abuse due to vague definitions and disproportionate penalties



3. Redundant to other existing laws in Malaysia



4. Threatens media freedom

AFNA is important because misinformation could...



1. Manipulate people's perception of truth



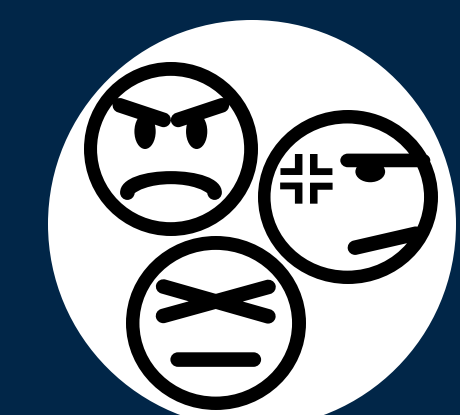
2. Ruin the reputation of people and organisations



3. Influence election outcomes



4. Financially impact businesses



5. Create or further intensify racial and religious tensions

Five countries where misinformation has escalated into violence and deaths



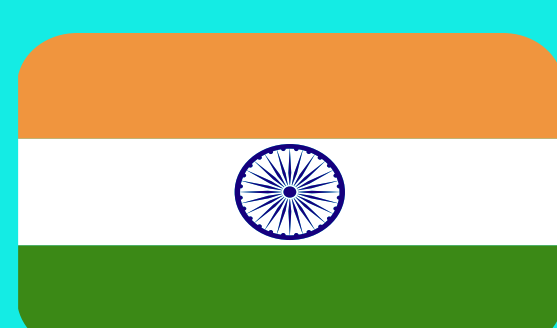
Mexico



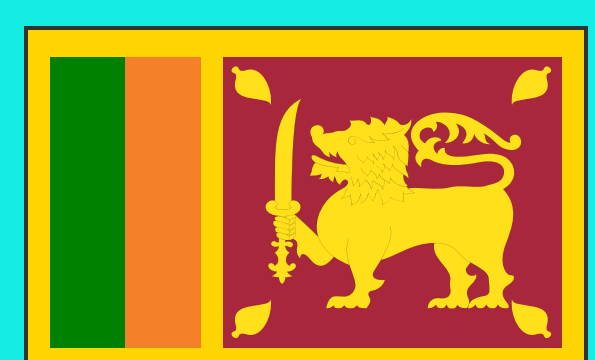
Indonesia



Myanmar



India



Sri Lanka

'Fake news' or misinformation is a global problem, at least 35 countries are combatting it, directly or indirectly through various approaches including

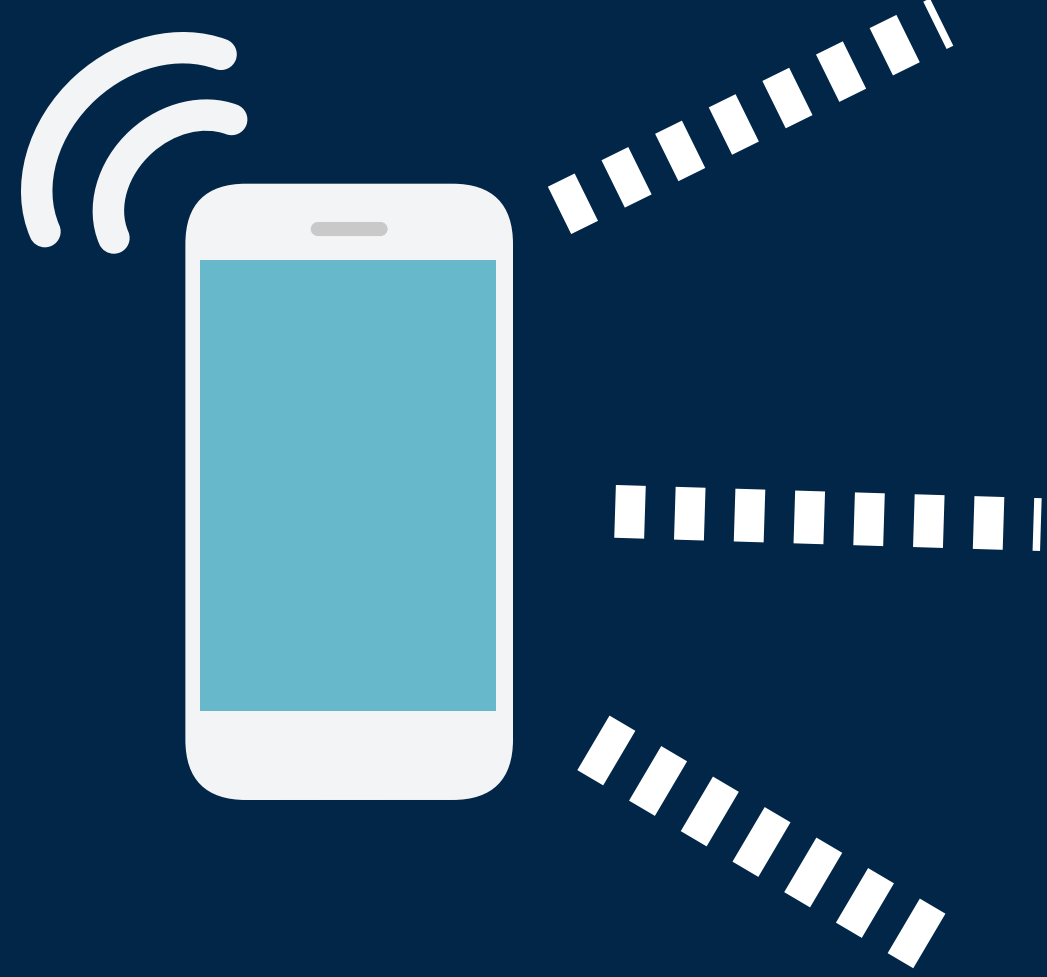


NEW LAW

ARRESTS

TASK FORCE

LITERACY CAMPAIGNS



Technology advancement also plays a role in heightening the problem - through deep fakes, bots and algorithmic curation

Social media platforms, where misinformation typically spreads, introduced various efforts to help combat the problem. But is it enough?

Malaysia's Anti Fake News Act 2018 Moving forward

- 01 Balance between combatting 'fake news' and protecting freedom of speech
- 02 Increase digital literacy and awareness
- 03 Put higher accountability on social media platforms
- 04 Establish and promote reliable and unbiased fact-checking sites to debunk misinformation
- 05 Establish specific definition of 'fake news' in the AFNA
- 06 Reform the AFNA into an Act that supplements, not redundant to existing laws
- 07 Penalty should be based on motives, severity of harm and responsible parties

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