

From the Desk of
**George Goh
Ching Wah**

Date: 20 June 2023

From: George Goh Media Team

Press Statement

Dear members of the media,

Since Mr George Goh announced that he would be making his Presidential bid on June 12, we have noticed a surge in falsehoods and misinformation about Mr Goh circulating online and on messaging platforms.

Mr Goh is deeply saddened and disappointed at the attempts and attacks to distract from the key issues of his campaign and undermine his credibility as a serious contender for the presidency. However, he is grateful for the unwavering support from his family and supporters and remains undeterred and committed to standing as a candidate for the upcoming Presidential election, to serve Singapore.

With this statement, we wish to take this opportunity to set the record straight on the facts.

Addressing the Issues

1. Misinformation

We would like to reiterate that Mr Goh is not a member of any political party. He has no links to organisations such as the People's Association and its grassroot offshoots such as the Citizens' Consultative Committee. This has been made clear in an earlier press statement after a WhatsApp image naming a Mr George Goh as the chairman of a CCC made its rounds. We have verified that this referred to another George Goh.

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2. Untrue Allegations

Besides his non-partisan credentials, Mr Goh has said publicly that he is standing as an “independent” candidate and not “a puppet” or proxy for others, as some people have asserted. As Mr Goh has said in a previous interview, acting for someone is at odds with his character and personality, as shown by his own life story and business record.

We have also noticed the confusion over his appointment as Singapore’s honorary ambassador to Morocco. We wish to clarify that this does not make him a Government employee. As signified by the term “honorary”, the ambassadorship is an unpaid position conferred on those whom the State believes are able to improve the country’s diplomatic, economic and cultural ties with another country. Since deciding to run as a Presidential candidate to serve Singaporeans, he has resigned from his post and is serving his three month notice until September 8.

While there are other online comments targeted at impugning Mr Goh’s character, we will not be responding to rumours made by anonymous commentators that are not based on facts. However, we would like to state that Mr Goh does not visit pubs, nightclubs and has no lawsuits pending against him or his companies.

3. Fake Accounts

There is a Twitter account purportedly set up by Mr Goh. This morning, we asked Twitter to remove this fake account @GeorgeGoh_CW. Mr Goh’s official Twitter handle is @georgegohcw. We ask that members of the public be mindful about sharing falsehoods designed to spread negative sentiments about Mr Goh.

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Commitment to Singapore

Mr Goh made his decision in 2017, to stand for elections. It was not a decision he made lightly, given the more stringent eligibility criteria for private sector candidates. He was assisted by a team of lawyers, accountants and auditors to ensure that he would have the necessary qualifications to enter the race. He has been studying the Constitution in detail, with the aid of a lawyer, and is more than familiar with the role of the President to safeguard the country's reserve and maintain public governance at the highest standards.

He believes that given the importance of the role, the election for the highest office in Singapore should not go uncontested. The people should be given an opportunity to make their choice.

More importantly, to maintain the integrity of the office, the President must not only be above politics but be perceived as such. Mr Goh is contesting as an independent candidate with no party affiliations or political baggage.

He has the financial and technical skills to helm the office, given his four decades doing business the world over. He has owned more than 100 companies, including five which he listed on the stock exchanges of Singapore and the United Kingdom. He acquired two other companies which were also publicly listed. For many of them, he was the most senior decision maker; the buck stopped with him.

Mr Goh pledges to act for the people, and in the interest of the country always, and not in serving any political party. Should the voters give him their votes, he is committed to working with the Government of the day, to further the interest of Singapore and its people.

For queries, please email: media@georgegohchingwah.com