

FOR IMMEDIATE REPORTING

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION WARNS
BUREAU CHIEF OF THE ECONOMIST IN SINGAPORE
AGAINST INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC POLITICS

The Ministry of Communications and Information has issued a warning to Dominic Ziegler, the Bureau Chief and Banyan columnist for The Economist in Singapore, for actions that constituted interference in our domestic politics, and expressed our clear expectation to Ziegler that he not do so again.

2 On 25 August 2023, Ziegler publicly endorsed in writing a local online publication Jom. He compared Singapore to an illiberal state, and encouraged Singaporeans to embrace an alternative vision, instead of what was being offered by the state and an allegedly captive media.

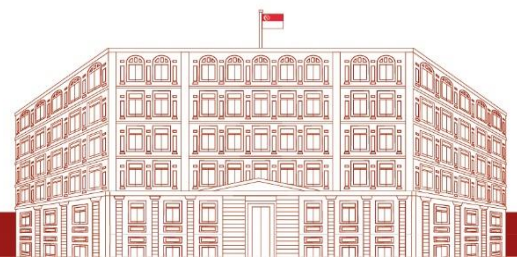
3 Ziegler's action clearly crossed the line from reporting on Singapore to participating in Singapore's domestic affairs. Ziegler has exploited his status in Singapore as a journalist in a prestigious international publication to advocate to Singaporeans for his viewpoint on domestic politics in Singapore, a country which he is not a citizen of. It is longstanding Government policy that such foreign interference in our domestic politics will not be tolerated. Singapore politics is reserved only for Singaporeans.

4 Foreign correspondents are free to report and comment on Singapore in their respective publications for a global audience. Ziegler himself has done so regularly. The Government insists on the right of reply to correct foreign reports that it considers inaccurate or biased, but it does not prevent foreign correspondents from engaging anyone they wish here and reporting on Singapore in any way they think fit.

5 Many foreign correspondents and media outlets base themselves in Singapore. The Economist itself has expanded its bureau here in recent years, transferring many of its correspondents previously based elsewhere in the region to Singapore. It would not have done so if it did not find Singapore a suitable base for its correspondents.

6 We continue to welcome foreign correspondents and media outlets to operate out of and report on Singapore, including The Economist. However, they must comply with our laws and must not interfere in our domestic politics.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
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