Annex B

ADDITIONAL PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM THE ANALYSIS OF MAINSTREAM AND SOCIAL MEDIA DURING COVID-19

1. Across all social media platforms in Singapore, there has been an unprecedented amount of COVID-19 information received by the public since January 2020, much of which is inaccurate or false. On Facebook, more than 107 million public posts about COVID-19 have been published globally, garnering more than 14 billion interactions, in the form of reactions, comments, and shares. Singapore accounts for around 80 thousand original public posts with more than 50 million interactions. On Twitter are over 33 million unique tweets about COVID-19 worldwide, with over 80,000 tweets from Singapore, and many more retweets spreading across the globe. A substantial portion of the original social media posts did not originate from traditional sources such as health authorities and government sources.

2. Global COVID-19 sentiments have shown rapid evolutions just within the span of a few weeks. Worldwide, strong negative sentiments of fear were detected in the early phases of pandemic but in the past few weeks, these emotions are being replaced by anger (figure 1).

   However, positive sentiments in the form of joy (i.e. resilience, civic pride, and celebration of heroic actions/kindness) are also surfacing.
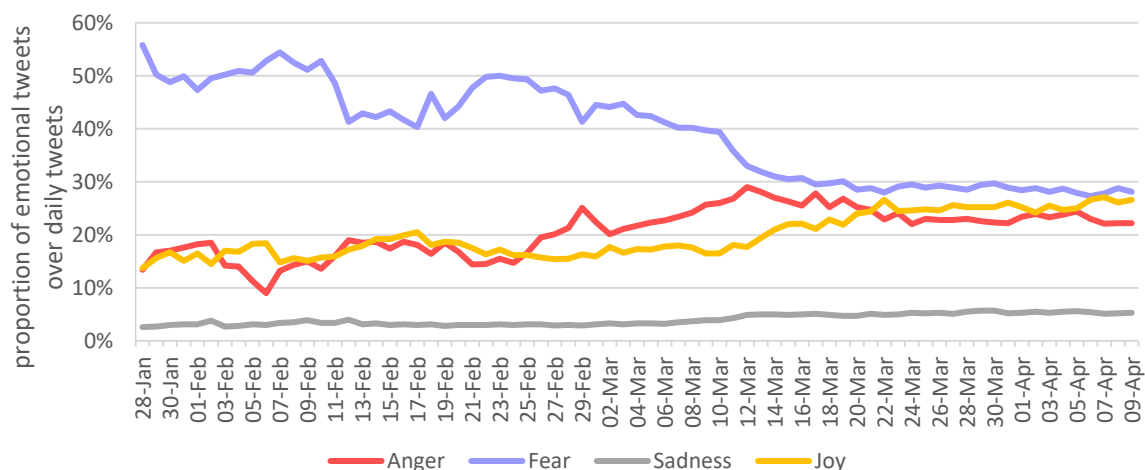

Figure 1: Global emotions trends during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic