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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **ACRA BRINGS AN ADDITIONAL 1,000 CHARGES AGAINST DATA REGISTER PTE LTD**

**Singapore, 4 Feb 2015** – The Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) has brought a further 1,000 charges against the company known as Data Register Pte Ltd (previously known as “Company Register Pte Ltd”) for issuing business correspondence in October and November 2013 which did not state its company name and registration number. These 1,000 charges are in addition to the earlier 104 charges brought against the company in January 2014.

2. From November 2013 to January 2014, ACRA received over 2,000 queries from companies in relation to the correspondence they had received from Data Register Pte Ltd. In those correspondence, Data Register Pte Ltd requested companies to verify their details through its website, failing which their data would be deleted. Many members of the public informed ACRA that Data Register did not state its company name or registration number on its business correspondence and that they had dealt with Data Register thinking it was a government agency.

3. Under section 144 of the Companies Act, companies have to include the company name and registration number in all business correspondence. These two requirements are to ensure that the public know who they are doing business with and prevent a case of mistaken identity. In addition, it allows the public to conduct checks to see if an entity is a private company or a government agency. Each breach of any of these two requirements carries a maximum fine of S\$1,000.

4. It is important to note that the **statutory duty** to file and provide business information under the Companies Act is owed only to ACRA. Companies can file or update their records with ACRA through *Bizfile*, ACRA's online filing and information retrieval system.

5. If in doubt, members of the public may conduct a free search on any company via ACRA's website and/or seek professional advice. The search on ACRA's website will reveal if the company is registered with ACRA; and if so, its business address,

registration number as well as ACRA's rating on the company's level of compliance with basic requirements under the Companies Act.

For media's background reference:

### **Section 144 – Failure to publish Company's Name and Registration Number**

Section 144 (1) states that the name of a company shall appear in legible romanised letters on -

(a) its seal; and

(b) all business letters, statements of account, invoices, official notices, publications, bills of exchange, promissory notes, indorsements, cheques, orders, receipts and letters of credit of or purporting to be issued or signed by or on behalf of the company.

Section 144 (1A) states that the registration number of a company shall appear in a legible form on all business letters, statements of account, invoices, official notices and publications of or purporting to be issued or signed by or on behalf of the company.

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### **About ACRA**

The Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) is the national regulator of business entities and public accountants in Singapore. ACRA also plays the role of a facilitator for the development of business entities and the public accountancy profession.

The mission of ACRA is to provide a responsive and trusted regulatory environment for businesses and public accountants. As at 31 January 2015, 465,622 business entities and 1016 public accountants practising in public accounting firms, accounting limited liability partnerships and accounting corporations are registered with ACRA.

For more information, please visit [www.acra.gov.sg](http://www.acra.gov.sg)